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PAGE 48



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Crosswalk deaths adding up

Fatalities. Pedestrians and drivers need to be aware, police say

With one man dead and another woman injured after being hit by vehicles in separate crosswalk incidents this week, police say things will only improve through education.

"Everybody has a role to play in their safety," Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scott MacRae said. "Don't totally count on a driver seeing you. You don't have concrete barriers on each side of you."

By the numbers

4

Number of people in HRM killed at a crosswalk this year. There were two fatalities in 2011.

Just before 9:20 a.m. Thursday, a 27-year-old woman was hit by a vehicle while in a marked crosswalk on the Bedford Highway in front of Mount Saint Vincent University. She suffered minor injuries.

About 15 hours earlier, 34-year-old William Roy Murphy was killed after being hit by a car in a marked crosswalk in Lower Sackville.

"Just by noticing the crosswalk, that's half the battle," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages.

Police say the responsibility is mostly on the motorist to stop first, because a car can do so much more damage to a pedestrian.

"We don't want drivers to be impaired, or texting, or distracted, or going too fast," MacRae said. "One person losing their life is one too many."

Police also advise that people should contact them when they see someone speed by a pedestrian waiting at a crosswalk. *More on page 3.*

HALEY RYAN/METRO



NO COFFEE BREAK FOR SEA KING

A Sea King helicopter sits grounded after making an unscheduled landing near a shopping complex in Bedford on Thursday afternoon. The Department of National Defence says the chopper experienced problems with its hydraulics. Story, page 5. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Fatal fire

Investigators still don't know cause of a house blaze in East Preston that took the lives of a retired couple PAGE 4

It's a no-go for Harper

Darrell Dexter criticizes the prime minister for skipping out on premiers' meeting PAGE 8



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NEWS

Crosswalk danger

Readers' responses

Readers sounded off on our Facebook page to news of Wednesday's crosswalk death and another crosswalk-pedestrian accident the following day in Halifax.

Here is a sample of the responses:

James Dwyer: We have to slow the F*** down, i cant stress that enough, it's not a race we all will get to where we are going eventually!

Michael McCluskey: I've had drivers lay on the horn, give me the finger and zoom around me as I am standing in a crosswalk with my arm out.

Derrick Smith: You cannot put blame on just the drivers here. EVERYONE must pay attention especially the pedestrians. common sense is you wait until its safe. Common sense is car vs human.... car wins. I've had way too many people just walk out when they press that button without looking. Again common sense people.

Erin Page: The responsibility is with both parties. Pedestrians must look out for themselves. You cannot approach a crosswalk and just go simply because it is a cross walk ... and drivers need to pay more attention. Put down your mocha-frappe-latte, leave the phone and GPS alone and pay attention to the road and what is happening around you.

Nikki Triple Six Charlton: Here we go again! Drivers need to understand that Pedestrians have the RIGHT OF WAY on Crosswalks!!!!

Dawn 'CeCe' Kelly: Thing is....the pedestrian has the right of way and therefore 'should' be able to assume safe crossing. It is truly the drivers responsibility to look first and proceed later yet it is not being done.



Cars stop for pedestrians at a crosswalk on Glendale Avenue and Raymond Drive in Lower Sackville on Thursday. A man was killed while using the crosswalk on Wednesday night. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Deadly crosswalk was 'scary': Neighbour

Glendale Avenue and Raymond Drive. Elderly driver struck victim while in marked crosswalk



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Joyce Ingram says she knew the day would come when someone was killed crossing the busy road near her Lower Sackville home.

"It's scary, — said about the crosswalk where the main thoroughfare of Glendale Avenue meets Raymond Drive.

On Wednesday night, 34-year-old William Roy Murphy of Beaver Bank was killed after being hit by a car in the crosswalk besides Sackville High School.

He was rushed to hospital with life-threatening injuries but was pronounced dead later that night. The driver of the car, an 81-year-old woman, wasn't hurt. She was charged on Thursday with failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, which carries a maximum fine of $687.

Ingram, who has lived on Raymond Drive for 17 years and sent her children to Sackville High School, said she would always listen for the sound of screeching tires when they left for class.

Accident waiting to happen

"I was sick to my stomach."

Area resident Joyce Ingram when hearing of the accident.

"I always cringed when my kids were going across," she said.

Steve Craig, the area's councillor, said there are lots of pedestrians using the crosswalk when they get off a bus, walk to the high school or go to the nearby Sackville Sports Stadium.

"It is a problem waiting to happen," Craig said, "You hope it never occurs."

Craig added residents would like to see more lights at the crosswalk that flash after you press a button, as well as left-hand turning lanes.

He said that creating a plan to make the road safer is a major priority because the impending opening of the Sackville-Burnside expressway will bring with it more traffic volume.

Ingram agreed there should be more lights at the crosswalk to prevent an accident, or a lower speed limit.

"But it's too late now," she said.

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NOVA SCOTIA



A fire investigator stands in front of 275 Salmon River Dr., where two people were killed after the East Preston home caught fire late Wednesday night. METRO/JEFF HARPER

Couple dies in East Preston house fire

Investigators can't pinpoint cause in fire. Neighbours say that the retired pair who died kept to themselves



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Investigators say they can't pinpoint the exact cause of a fire that consumed an East Preston home, killing the couple living inside.

Just before midnight on Wednesday, firefighters responded to a blaze at 275 Salmon River Dr. and faced heavy fire and smoke from the front of the home.

They pulled a woman from inside the house and performed CPR on her, but she was later pronounced dead after paramedics rushed her to hospital.

When firefighters went back into the home, they found a dead man. Both people were believed to be in their late 50s.

"It's a tragic accident," said Halifax regional fire spokesman Phil McNulty.

He said six units from four different stations responded to the call, and the fire was put out within two hours.

"There was a lot of help on the scene," McNulty said.

He added the official cause of the blaze is listed as undetermined, but "certainly not suspicious."

"We got down to a couple of potential causes and couldn't rule one out over the other," McNulty said.

Neighbours identify the couple as Bob and Carol Rafuse.

"They were the only two who lived there," said Ken Taylor, who lives around the corner from the Rafuses on Charter Drive.

Taylor said Bob was a retired janitor at a Dartmouth school, and Carol was a retired teacher.

"They were nice, they kept to themselves," Taylor said.

A pet dog also died in the fire, which Taylor said was a German shepherd he had seen Bob walking around the neighbourhood.

Grief

"I just feel terrible."

Ken Taylor, who lives around the corner from where the Rafuses lived

No injuries

Lakeside home ravaged by fire

One person escaped unharmed from a fire that caused serious damage to a Lakeside home.

Halifax Regional Fire services spokesperson Phil McNulty said firefighters were greeted, Thursday afternoon, with smoke and flame billowing from the single-family house and had to initially battle the flames from the outside

A lone resident who was home when the fire broke out escaped safely.

There's no word on a cause, but McNulty said the home was not livable.

METRO HALIFAX

Bail. Sackville man charged in case of alleged confinement released

A Lower Sackville man accused in the alleged confinement of a 16-year-old was released on $1,000-bail Thursday.

John Leonard MacKean, 63, is charged with sexual assault and communicating for the purpose of obtaining sexual services from a person under 18.

MacKean was released on a number of conditions, including orders to stay away from anyone under 18 and refrain from using the Internet. He must also stay in contact with authorities and is prohibited from leaving Nova Scotia unless his work requires him to do so.

Police launched an investigation in September after a woman in Upper Chelsea, about 130 kilometres southwest of Halifax, reported a barefoot teen at her doorstep chained at his wrists and ankles.

David James Leblanc was also later arrested. Police were also looking for 31-year-old Wayne Alan Cunningham, whose body was found near the area where Leblanc was arrested. Foul play was not suspected in his death.

MacKean's case is scheduled to return to court on Jan. 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military helicopter makes emergency landing in Bedford

Five military personnel on board.
But no one was hurt

A Sea King helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing Thursday in a vacant lot near a grocery store in Bedford after it experienced problems with its hydraulics, the Department of National Defence said.

The chopper was on a training flight from Canadian Forces Base Shearwater when it encountered the problems, navy Lt. Len Hickey said.

"In accordance with procedure, this requires a landing as soon as possible to limit any risk," Hickey said in an interview.

The helicopter made a controlled emergency landing in a vacant gravel lot near a Sobeys grocery market around 2:20 p.m., he said.

Crystal Forhart, a front-desk worker at a nearby dental clinic, said she heard a loud, startling noise as the helicopter suddenly descended.

"We all stopped and said, 'Did you hear that? It sounds like it is right on top of us,'" she said in a telephone interview.

"I'm just glad it didn't land on us."

Hickey said an investigator was sent to the scene at Peakview Way off Larry Uteck Boulevard, and officials will repair the helicopter on site if possible.

"Right now, we're just following up to find out exactly what happened," he said. "We don't know exactly what the issue is."

Hickey said the military goes to great lengths to ensure its fleet of helicopters is safe.

"Old or new, aircraft flying has an element of risk attached to it just by its nature," he said.

"We do everything we can to minimize the risk, but sometimes these things happen." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sea Kings controversy

The Sea Kings have been at the centre of controversy for years as Ottawa's bid to replace the aging helicopters has been repeatedly delayed.



100 years on the ride side of the law

Members of the Halifax Regional Police/RCMP Integrated Traffic Unit pose for a photo on Citadel Hill on Thursday afternoon. They were gathering along with retired motorcyclists to mark the 100th anniversary of the use of motorcycles by police in Halifax. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Trenton

Province offers reward in Phalen homicide case



Edward Phalen CONTRIBUTED

The province hopes to provide closure to the family and community of 44-year-old Edward William Phalen by offering a reward for information that could solve his homicide.

The province is offering a cash award of up to $150,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for his death.

On Oct. 25, 2011, Phalen left his home on Mechanic Street in Trenton, and drove to the local convenience store. Phalen was shot and killed minutes later outside his residence.

Police believe the suspect or suspects were waiting for him to return home. Witnesses heard gunshots and saw a suspect fleeing the scene on foot.

At the time of the shooting, Phalen's wife and children were inside their home. NEW GLASGOW NEWS

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Report card paints bleak picture of homelessness

Numbers rising. More people spending more time in local shelters


RUTH DAVENPORT
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The third annual report card on homelessness in Halifax suggests there's still a long way to go in finding shelter for thousands of people in HRM.

The report card, released by the Nova Scotia Housing and Homelessness Network Thursday, shows the number of people who stayed in a shelter in 2011 has gone up by 15 per cent — topping 4,000 — compared to 2009.

However, the length of those stays has dropped by three days.

Pamela Harrison, of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System, told a news conference that it suggests people are accessing shelters, and then trying to find permanent housing — without luck.

"Among the two levels of government and the incredible activists, we have done a great job to try to improve the odds," she said. "There are more options, but there are still not enough."

The report shows big increases in the number of adult men, women between 16 and 19 years old, and girls under the age of 16 using homeless shelters.

Harrison also pointed out the gap between the average monthly rent for a bachelor apartment — $670 — and monthly income assistance for a single person, $538.

She said it suggests it's time to redefine the definition of "affordable housing."

"It's not just about income. If you can afford a boarding house room that doesn't allow you to cook meals with a very limited income, that's not affordable housing," she said. "The quality of life has to be there as well, it's not just having a room."

Harrison said she's expecting better statistics next year, thanks to new housing support workers and more supported-housing units.

However, she said the system must be able to provide support for everyone, regardless of need.

"We need to stop talking about how our system can or cannot house people," she said. "We need to make the statement, we need to house everybody, now how can we do it the most appropriately?"

Shelter beds used

70,311

is the number of times shelter beds were used in Halifax in 2011.



Putting finishing touches on YMCA centre

United Way volunteers, including Catherine Alexander, right, gather to paint the interior of the new YWCA resource centre for women and children building in Spryfield on Thursday afternoon. More than 100 volunteers donated their time to complete the project. JEFF HARPER/METRO



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Information. Premier's press secretary sending notes to Nova Scotia Power 'inappropriate': McNeil

The press secretary for Nova Scotia's premier sent a summary of a scrum Darrell Dexter had with reporters and a cabinet minister's speaking notes to Nova Scotia Power in what amounts to a misuse of public resources, the Opposition Liberals said Thursday.

The party obtained emails that Jennifer Stewart sent to the private utility company earlier this year through access-to-information legislation. Two of the emails summarize Dexter's responses to reporters who questioned him on the salaries of Nova Scotia Power executives during scrums at the provincial legislature on May 10 and 11.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said while the correspondence doesn't break any rules, it was an inappropriate use of taxpayers' resources.

Quoted

"It's a perfectly normal part of everyday business."

Darrell Dexter, Nova Scotia premier, on providing information to companies who request it

"You'll have to ask Nova Scotians whether they think it's appropriate for the premier's office to be standing here being the ears and eyes for Nova Scotia Power at the legislature," McNeil said.

But Dexter said it's not uncommon for his office to provide information to companies when they request it "just to make sure that they understand what we are saying and what the other parties are saying." THE CANADIAN PRESS



PM's absence a gaping hole in meeting, says Dexter

Cold shoulder. Premier said he did everything he could to lure PM to Halifax.



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

If the country's premiers and the prime minister agree the economy is the biggest challenge facing them, why would Stephen Harper miss an opportunity to meet with them in Halifax this weekend, Premier Darrell Dexter questioned Thursday.

"These are the most prominent stakeholders in the economic success of the country and the prime minister says we'll wait and see." Dexter told reporters at the Nova Scotia legislature.

Harper's decision to skip the two-day meeting that begins Friday in Halifax has already ruffled the feathers of a few premiers for the same reason.

Robert Ghiz, the premier of Prince Edward Island, said he would have welcomed the prime minister's ideas at the table on how to improve the country's "sluggish" economic growth.

"There is a difference when he is here," Ghiz said late Thursday after arriving in the port city.

"Whether it's skills development, university funding ... immigration, trade, all these things. There are federal ties in all those areas."

Dexter said one of the main topics on the agenda would centre on the state of the global economy and the potential impacts it will have on the provinces.

He said he's particularly concerned about the country's growing deficit.

Because the provinces rely heavily on federal money and federally funded stimulus and infrastructure projects are winding down, Dexter said he's particularly concerned about Harper's plans for Nova Scotia and the rest of the Atlantic provinces.

He said he specifically took issues like health care off the agenda in order to try to convince Harper that the event wasn't designed to be an attack on him, like other such meetings in the past, but that it would remain dignified and singly focused. WITH FILES FROM CANADIAN PRESS

Missing

Stephen Harper's absence from the meeting has also become fodder for opposition parties in the House of Commons this week, where they accused him of shirking his responsibilities.

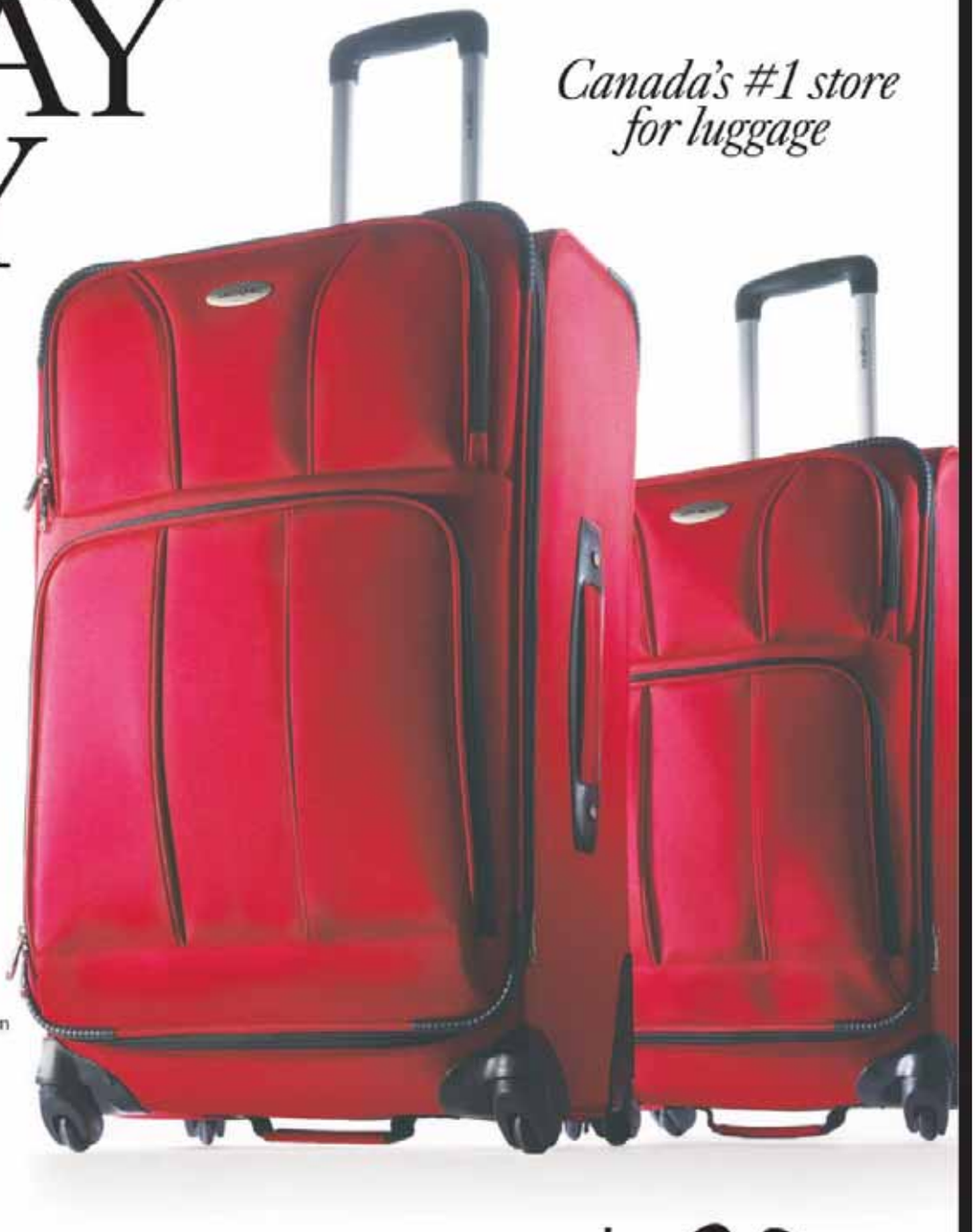


PEI Premier Robert Ghiz brushes his moustache while waiting for a television interview in Halifax on Thursday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

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An artist's rendering of the new hotel slated to open this spring at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the ALT Halifax

Sneak peek. Hoteliers reveal design features, details of new 169-room airport hotel

The company behind the new hotel under construction at Halifax Stanfield International Airport has taken the wraps off some of the finer features of the design.

Groupe Germain Hospitalite co-presidents Christiane and Jean-Yves Germain hosted a reception at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Thursday evening to reveal details of the 169-room, three-star ALT Hotel that's expected to open in the spring of 2013.

"Construction is going well, it's going according to budget and plan and everything," said Ms. Germain Thursday afternoon.

The $27-million ALT Hotel won't have all the amenities of the Germain's trademark four-star boutique hotels, but Ms. Germain said it will be on par for comfort.

"We wanted to make sure the comfort of the bed was the equivalent of a four-star, that's very important to us," she said. "All the linens and everything that surrounds where you sleep is top-of-the-line."

The hotel is connected to the airport by a covered walkway, so guests won't need to venture outside to find a room for the night.

"Hospitality is all about service," said Ms. Germain. "If you want to develop a loyal clientele, you have to give them what they want."

METRO

ALT Hotel

Rooms at the ALT Halifax will have high ceilings, "spa-like" bathrooms, and floor-to-ceiling, sound-proofed windows.

Reducing private health care. Legislation is wrongheaded: Clinic

Legislation unveiled by the province Thursday aimed at weakening private health care in Nova Scotia is wrongheaded and too simplistic, says the owner of a Halifax MRI clinic.

"The department of health sees us as competition where they should see us as complimentary to the public health care system," said George Murphy, owner of HealthView Medical Imaging. "There isn't enough money in the public health care system to provide the quality of care that could be provided if better resourced."

Health Minister David Wilson introduced legislation earlier in the day that would prohibit queue jumping, extra billing and user fees; though he claimed those issues aren't a problem.

Wilson said the legislation would help ensure people who received a diagnostic test from a private practice like Murphy's wouldn't get preferential treatment, though he added that exceptions could be made in emergency situations.

Murphy said his clinic receives about 75 patients a week from across the Atlantic provinces, all of whom are covered by a third party such as the Workers' Compensation Board.

Murphy said none of the patients he sees should get preferential treatment in the public health-care system. But he said he offers a valuable service by quickly diagnosing ailments and directing patients to the right treatment or specialist.

"The people who come here are much better informed and they end up getting better outcomes."

Wilson said the proposed amendments would also eliminate reimbursements for services provided outside the province's health insurance plan.

He said the move is intended to prevent potential problems rather than stamp out any shortcomings in the health system.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health critic

Progressive Conservative health critic Chris d'Entremont said the changes don't address real problems affecting health care, citing long waits for surgeries as an example.

Can't get enough

More people visiting N.S. this year over last

More than 30,000 more visitors went to Nova Scotia this year, compared with the first nine months of 2011. From January through September, there was a two per cent increase in visitors, totalling 30,600.

"We are very happy with the results so far and are working to become even more competitive in the global tourism market," Percy Paris, Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, said in a statement.

Road travel is up five per cent over last year, while air travel has dropped. METRO



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Pre-emptive strike. Tories target Trudeau as poll suggests growing favour

Conservatives have launched their first concerted attack on Justin Trudeau — and a new poll may explain why.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests the Liberal leadership front-runner's popularity is not the fleeting celebrity phenomenon that skeptics had assumed.

It's actually increasing and has the potential to siphon off votes from all parties, including the Tories.

Forty-two per cent of respondents said they'd be certain or likely to vote Liberal in the next election if Trudeau was at the helm — enough to form a comfortable Liberal majority government.

The poll was released Thursday, just as the Conservatives pounced on a two-year-old television interview to accuse Trudeau of being anti-Alberta.

In the interview with the Tele-Quebec program Les francs-tireurs, Trudeau said: "Canada isn't doing well right now because it's Albertans who control our community and socio-democratic agenda. It doesn't work."

Trudeau's campaign swiftly issued a statement accusing the Tories of using "out-of-context statements made years ago in a long interview" to launch a desperate "smear campaign" aimed at reviving the faltering Conservative by-election campaign in Calgary Centre.

The resurrected Trudeau quotes piled on a gaffe a day earlier by Ottawa Liberal MP David McGuinty. He resigned his shadow cabinet post as natural resources critic after saying Alberta Tory MPs are "shills" for the oil industry and should go home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Justin Trudeau GETTY IMAGES FILE



It's good! GG set for Grey Cup kickoff

Gov. Gen. David Johnston practices kicking a football on the grounds of Rideau Hall, the official residence of the Governor General, in Ottawa, Thursday. Johnston was getting ready for the Grey Cup kickoff this Sunday.

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Concerned family

Google recruited in probe into death threats

A Toronto-area family devastated by emailed death threats sent from the children's school last year is now hoping Google can help end their ongoing nightmare. But it's unclear if the cyber-juggernaut will cooperate. Ashoak Grewal received emails from a Gmail user that stated he and his family would be killed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Funding required

Cities headed for 'infrastructure cliff': Mulcair

Tom Mulcair says Canada's municipalities are heading for an "infrastructure cliff" unless the federal government commits to long-term, stable funding to repair crumbling roads, and water and sewer systems.

And the NDP leader says that commitment must be made in the 2013 budget, since the current Building Canada Fund is set to expire in 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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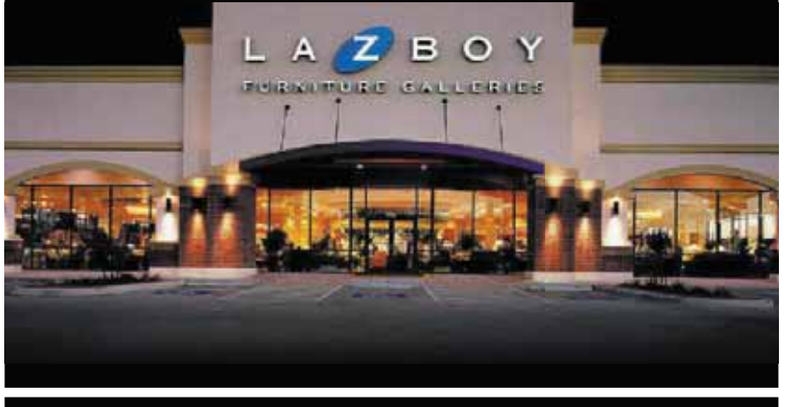
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Mayor Fontana says he'll fight to clear his name

RCMP charges. 'I'm not going to abandon my post', mayor says, refusing to step down



ANGELA MULLINS
Metro in London



Mayor Joe Fontana makes a statement during a news conference in London on Thursday about charges he is facing after an RCMP investigation.
DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Innocent and not going anywhere.

That was the message from London, Ont., Mayor Joe Fontana, who dug his heels into the sand Thursday, making his first public statement since being charged Tuesday by the RCMP.

"I intend to fight as hard as I possibly can to clear my name," Fontana said. "I have a responsibility and obligation that was given to me by the people of London two years ago.

"I intend to fulfil my responsibilities."

Fontana — accused of using taxpayer money to cover a $1,700 room deposit for his son's 2005 wedding reception — said the court case won't be a distraction as budget talks start at city hall.

"I am confident that this council, the community (can) come together so that we can complete the work that's been requested of us," he said.

"I truly understand and realize some anguish and pain, disappointment, frustration, anger that has been caused by this incident," the mayor said.

"I feel it right here for the people of London," he said, putting his hand on his heart, "for my family, for my colleagues, for those who had supported me, for those people who care about our city."

Fontana has resigned from the police-services board because provincial law bans people who are facing charges from holding the post.

The Municipal Act carries no such requirement for those elected to office.

Lawyer Gordon Cudmore, who's representing Fontana, slammed the court of public opinion Thursday for spreading "substantial misinformation" and "speculation" about "what actually occurred regarding payment of the Fontana wedding."

Fontana, under Mountie investigation since Oct. 19, is guaranteed a presumption of innocence as the court case — which could take about a year — unfolds, Cudmore said.

Fontana's first court appearance will be Jan. 8.

Charges

- London, Ont., Mayor Joe Fontana is facing criminal charges that stem from his days as a London North Centre MP and federal cabinet minister under then-prime minister Paul Martin.
- The charges are: Breach of trust by a public officer, fraud under $5,000, uttering forged documents.



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Phone hacking. British media set to face the music

It's judgment day for Britain's press.

After nearly 18 months of damaging revelations about widespread media misconduct, the senior judge tapped to investigate the ethics and practices of some of the English-speaking world's most powerful newspapers will deliver his verdict next Thursday.

Lord Justice Brian Leveson's inquiry was launched in response to the phone-hacking scandal at Rupert Murdoch's News of the World, where journalists routinely intercepted phone messages to obtain sensational stories and allegedly engaged in computer hacking and bribery, too.

Leveson's recommendations have been a matter of intense speculation since the inquiry was ordered by Prime Minister David Cameron in July 2011. Leveson could recommend new rules for journalists, suggest a new press watchdog or simply endorse the status quo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Government probe

A year's worth of hearings exposed a host of shady journalistic practices.

- Celebrities, crime victims and the falsely accused described feeling helpless as their privacy rights were ground to bits

Italy

Journalists' union set for protest strike

The Italian journalists' union has announced a national strike Monday to protest a proposed law that maintains a Fascist-era provision for jail time for journalists convicted of libel while reducing penalties for their editors to fines.

The Senate will vote Monday on the measure, which would carry a penalty of up to one year in jail for journalists convicted of libel, while the editor in charge risks fines of $64,000.

Parliament took up the law after a rightist editor was given a 14-month sentence for libel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. politician calling for new vote on women bishops



Rev. Kat Campion-Spall, an assistant curate at St. Mary's Church in Merton, southwest London, takes a break with her seven-week-old daughter Iris, during a meeting of the General Synod of the Church of England on Tuesday. YUI MOK/GETTY IMAGES

Church of England. MPs push for action in wake of controversial vote by General Synod

The Church of England should hold another vote on women bishops as soon as possible, its representative in the House of Commons said Thursday, while some members suggested stripping the church of its exemption from sex-discrimination laws.

Legislation to permit women to become bishops was blocked in the church's governing General Synod on Tuesday, a result that has drawn harsh criticism in Parliament.

"This is not an issue which can in any way be parked for the next couple of years or so awaiting another round of synod elections," said Tony Baldry, a member of Parliament who is officially designated to speak for the church.

Church legislation to permit women to serve as bishops failed to win the necessary two-thirds majority among lay members of the General Synod. Church officials have said it could take five years to lay the ground for another vote, but Baldry said this should not be necessary.

The church has been unable to find a formula that meets the objections of traditionalists who believe only men can be priests and bishops, without at the same time offending women by restricting their authority and status as bishops.

Frank Field, a legislator and former member of the General Synod, introduced a bill on Thursday to strip the church of its exemption from sex-discrimination laws. More drastically, there has been talk of ending the church's status as the state church governed by the monarch.

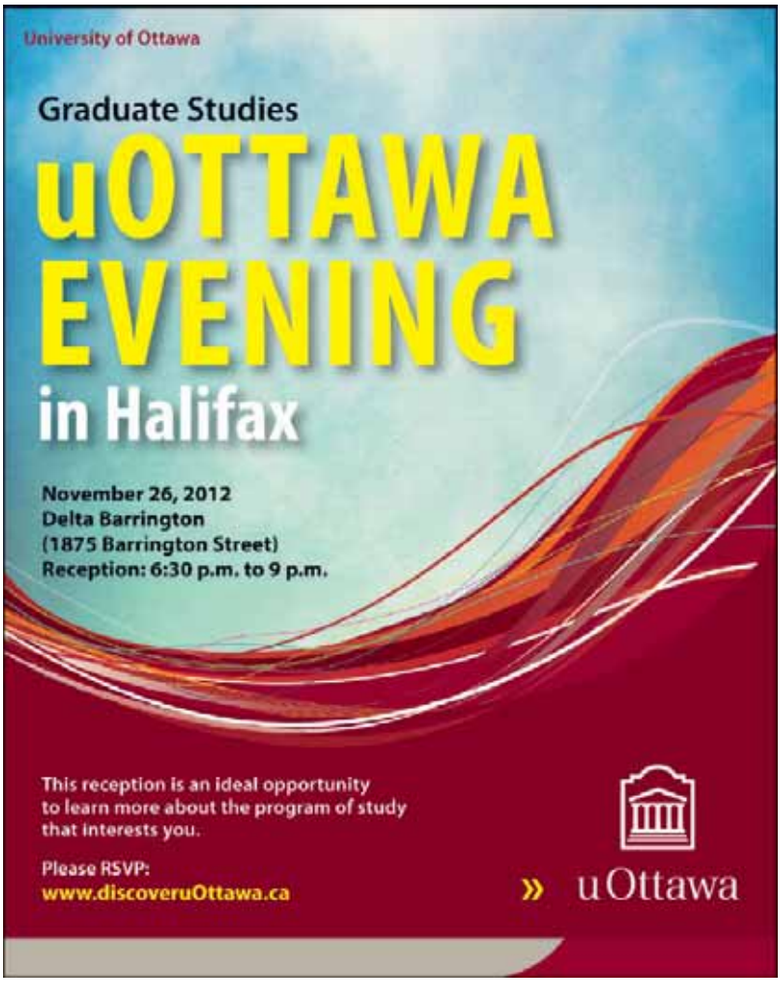
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"This is an issue that has to be resolved as soon as possible."

U.K. MP Tony Baldry on a recent decision by the Church of England to block women bishops.





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A worker cuts a shark fin on June 12 at a fish market in Dubai. The global trade in shark fins totals hundreds of millions of dollars a year, and tens of millions of sharks around the world may be caught every year for their fins. The European Parliament voted to ban the practice of shark finning on Thursday. KAMRAN JEBREILI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU Parliament votes to ban shark finning

Speciality. Practice stems from the high price the body parts fetch in China for shark-fin soup

The European Union took a major step to protect sharks on Thursday, banning the brutal practice of hacking off their fins before throwing them back into the sea to die.

The European Parliament voted by an overwhelming 566-47 margin to force all boats in EU waters and EU-registered vessels around the world to land sharks with their fins attached and prove the animal had not been thrown back finless.

The practice of shark finning stems from the high price the body parts fetch in China for shark-fin soup, a specialty at high-class banquets, and the low value of the rest of the body. The consumption of fins has risen as China's living standards have increased. Fins can sell for as much as $700 U.S. a pound.

The European Union has said that some 75 million sharks are killed for their fins only. Since the EU is the biggest exporter, the move should have a sizable impact on shark populations.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature says that about one-third of sharks and rays are threatened both in EU waters and around the globe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conservation concerns

- Spain is the top fin exporter. The Oceana conservation group said the EU is the largest shark-fishing power in the world, with 17 per cent of reported shark catches, and the largest exporter of shark fins to Hong Kong and mainland China.

Enclosure escape

White tiger attacks zoo employees

A rare white tiger attacked three employees in a Czech zoo Thursday after escaping from its enclosure, officials said.

Lenka Markovicova, spokeswoman for the rescuers in the northern city of Liberec, said one man has been hospitalized with head injuries. She said he is not in life-threatening condition. Two women suffered minor injuries and were also taken to the local hospital for treatment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not welcome. Chris Brown cancels Guyana concert after protests

Organizers say American R&B star Chris Brown has cancelled a stadium concert in Guyana after local protests over his 2009 beating of then-girlfriend Rihanna.

Brown was billed to headline a Dec. 26 show. But he drew the ire of women's-rights groups and opposition lawmakers who said Brown would not be welcome in Guyana three years after his assault of the Barbadian superstar.

Concert promoter Hits & Jams Entertainment said Thursday that Brown backed out, citing discomfort with the protests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Singer Chris Brown
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Scientists to attempt tortoise resurrection

Galapagos Islands. Will take more than 100 years to revive a species of giant tortoise recently declared extinct

Lonesome George, the late reptile prince of the Galapagos Islands, may be dead, but scientists now say he may not be the last giant tortoise of his species after all.

Researchers say they may be able to resurrect the Pinta Island subspecies by launching a cross-breeding program with 17 other tortoises found to contain genetic material similar to that of Lonesome George, who died June 24 at the Pacific Ocean archipelago off Ecuador's coast after repeated failed efforts to reproduce. Edwin Naula, director of the Galapagos National Park, said in a telephone interview on Thursday that the probability is high it can be accomplished.

"It would be the first time that a species was recovered after having been declared extinct," Naula said.

But it won't happen overnight. "This is going to take about 100 to 150 years," Naula added.

Scientists took DNA samples from 1,600 tortoises on Wolf volcano, and found the Pinta variety in 17, though their overall genetic makeup varied.

Through cross-breeding, "100 per cent pure species" can be achieved, said Naula, a biologist. At least 14 species of giant tortoise originally inhabited the islands which are 1,000 kilometres off Ecuador's coast, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Elderly homeowner stands his ground, on a Chinese road

People stand near a house which sits in the middle of a newly built road in Wenling city in east China's Zhejiang province Thursday. The house belongs to an elderly man, who refused to sign an agreement to allow his house to be demolished. He said the compensation was not enough.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico. Name change proposed for Mexico

Mexico's president is making one last attempt to get the United States out of Mexico — at least as far as the country's name is concerned.

The country's formal name is The United Mexican States, but few people use it.

President Felipe Calderon wants to make it simply Mexico.

He says the name was adopted in 1824 to imitate The United States of America.

Calderon said Thursday Mexico doesn't need to emulate anyone. The constitutional reform would have to be approved by both houses of Congress and a majority of Mexico's 31 state legislatures. However, President Calderon leaves office on December 1st. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Arab Emirates. Two jailed for sex in a cab

A Dubai court has sentenced an Irish man and British woman to three months in jail for an alleged intimate tryst in the back of a taxi.

But the couple has denied the charges and have accused the taxi driver of fabricating the story after a fare dispute.

The sentence on Thursday is the latest case of Westerners running afoul of the social codes in the United Arab Emirates, which maintains strict laws on sex-related issues.

Prosecutors accused the pair of removing some clothing and fondling each other in a cab in May. The judge says the pair will be deported after serving their sentences. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pigeons. Open church hatch lets in 2 tons of poop

A hatch on a Swedish church tower inadvertently left open for three decades resulted in two tons of pigeon droppings amassing in the tower.

The church's property manager says the layer of droppings was 30 centimetres deep when it was discovered during a May inspection of the Heliga Trefaldighets Kyrka in Gavle, 170 kilometres north of Stockholm.

Lennart Helzenius said on Thursday that church staff had been shocked by the sheer number of bags of excrement cleaners were removing from the tower.

The pigeon droppings from the tower filled more than 160 bags. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Charter rights. Challenge to anti-terrorism tactics will see highest court


Mohamed Harkat THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Supreme Court of Canada will decide just how open the process should be when the federal government wants to deport a suspected terrorist from abroad.

The high court agreed Thursday to hear a challenge of the national security certificate system, a rarely used means of removing non-citizens accused of being terrorists or spies.

It will also review crucial issues related to evidence in the case of Algerian refugee Mohamed Harkat, arrested 10 years ago in Ottawa under a security certificate.

The hearing will come more than five years after the Conservative government retooled the certificate regime to make it consistent with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Supreme Court will rule whether those reforms went far enough.

Harkat, 44, was taken into custody in Dec. 2002 on suspicion of being an al-Qaida agent. He denies any involvement in terrorist activities.

Harkat lives at home but wears an electronic tracking bracelet on his ankle, must check in with authorities regularly and cannot leave town without permission.

The person named in a security certificate receives only a summary of the case against them — stripped of supporting information — which critics say makes the process wholly unfair. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Custody battle

Supreme Court won't hear 'fetus abduction' case

Canada's top court has declined to hear an appeal involving an Ontario woman's right to choose where to have her baby.

The case was prompted by a mother who left Canada when she was seven months pregnant. After the baby was born in California, the father started a custody battle in Ontario.

Initially, Ontario's Superior Court agreed the dispute should be heard, saying what the mother had done was tantamount to kidnapping.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Multiple sclerosis

Tories shut down MS therapy bill

The Conservatives have used their Senate majority to kill legislation that would have authorized a national strategy to deal with a controversial therapy for multiple sclerosis.

Liberal senators say it's shameful that Bill S-204 was squelched in committee. The Conservative senators argued this is a matter for science and medicine, not Parliament.

The bill would have required a national strategy and formal trials of what is known as liberation therapy, which involves opening up blocked neck veins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. judge rules dog killer won't do time

Animal cruelty. Man says he was forced to kill 56 dogs after company froze spending on care

A man who pleaded guilty to the slaughter of dozens of sled dogs will not spend time in prison, a judge has ruled, concluding the man had the "best interests" of the dogs at heart when he culled the pack near Whistler after a slump in business following the 2010 Olympics.

But while Judge Steve Merrick said he agreed with a psychiatrists' assessment that Robert Fawcett's actions were the result of mental instability, he noted: "(You) ought to have anticipated the possibility of the horrific circumstances that could result."

The aftermath from the April 2010 killing was laid bare in B.C. Supreme Court for the first time Thursday by Fawcett's lawyer, who described how hard it was for his client to even listen to details of killing his beloved animals again.

"I will never stop feeling guilty for the suffering that the dogs endured that day," said defense lawyer Greg Diamond, quoting his client.

Fawcett admitted in August to killing the dogs following a post-Olympic slump in sales. Court heard he felt forced when the owners of Howling Dog Tours put an "absolute freeze" on spending, other than for food and the bare minimum of labour.

At that point, Fawcett was working 150 hours over two weeks to care for the animals and watching their conditions deteriorate to the point where they were fighting and killing each other in their kennel.

"In part, he accepted the burden because he felt he could do it compassionately and he did not want that burden placed on anyone else," Diamond said.

Fawcett pleaded guilty to one count of causing unnecessary pain and suffering to animals, which relates to the deaths of nine dogs. More than 50 dogs were exhumed from a mass grave in May 2011 as part of a forensic investigation by the B.C. SPCA. Court heard most of the dogs that were shot did not suffer.

Animal euthanasia is legal in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ingrid Katzberg attends the sentencing hearing for Robert Fawcett on Thursday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS


B.C. SPCA employees examine the mass grave for dogs. CONTRIBUTED/B.C. SPCA



Acorn activist drops bid to remove trees amid online pressure

Cyber bullying.
Allergy-related request dropped after Toronto mother reports online harassment

A mother who sought to have oak trees uprooted and replanted far away from her children's Toronto-area school due to concern over acorn allergies says fierce public reaction and "cyber-bullying" has led her to drop her request.

Donna Giustizia asked city councillors in Vaughan, Ont., earlier this month to move the three trees out of fear their nuts could trigger allergic reactions in her two children and others at the elementary school's playground.

But in a letter emailed to councillors Tuesday, Giustizia withdrew the request, taking a dig at the media for what she called "sensational" reporting on her council appearance.



Donna Giustizia
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/HANDOUT

Giustizia's letter says her family has been targeted by "cyber-bullying" over her "friendly request" to have council think about moving the trees somewhere else.

She says the fierce reaction is unfair since in a "free, civilized society" citizens should be able to sound off to their elected officials without fear of personal attacks.

Stories on Giustizia's request were published around the world and spurred acid-tongued comments on online message boards, while experts insisted the allergy risk was minimal.

The school itself has a nut-free policy for the indoor areas, but the three oak trees line the playground, dropping their acorns in the play area.

"It is most unfortunate that the media, in reporting the story, chose to sensationalize the news and has carelessly and cavalierly hurt those who we were trying to protect," she wrote in the letter.

"On a personal level, the cyber bullying and hate-filled sentiments my family and I have had to endure — because of my simply acting in a voluntary capacity, making a friendly request to my city council on behalf of small children — is ridiculous.

"In a free, civilized society, we should be able to voice our opinions, express our concerns, and make our requests to elected officials without fear of reprisal, ridicule, or regret," Giustizia wrote. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Gaza crisis: Both sides claim victory

After 8 days fighting: 161 Palestinians killed, including 71 civilians; six Israelis killed including two soldiers and four civilians

Hamas leaders and thousands of flag-waving supporters declared victory over Israel on Gaza's first day of calm under an Egyptian-brokered truce Thursday, as Israeli officials flew to Cairo for talks on easing a blockade on the battered Palestinian territory.

Eight days of punishing Israeli airstrikes on Gaza and a barrage of Hamas rocket fire on Israel ended inconclusively. While Israel said it inflicted heavy damage on the militants, Gaza's Hamas rulers claimed that Israel's decision not to send in ground troops, as it had four years ago, was a sign of a new deterrent power.

The mood in Israel was mixed. Some were grateful that quiet had been restored without a ground operation that could have cost the lives of more soldiers. Others — particularly those in southern Israel hit by rockets over the past 13 years — thought the operation was abandoned too quickly.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the offensive's aims of halting Gaza rocket fire and weakening Hamas were achieved.

Despite the tough talk, the ceasefire raised hopes of a new era between Israel and Hamas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Side effects

- The fighting brought the Islamists unprecedented political recognition, with foreign ministers from Turkey and several Arab states visiting — a sharp contrast to Hamas' past isolation.
- Israel and the United States, even while formally sticking to a policy of shunning Hamas, also acknowledged its central role by engaging in indirect negotiations with them.
- Egypt emerged as the pivotal mediator, raising its stature as a regional power.



An Israeli soldier guides a tank to a new position at a staging area near the Gaza Strip border in southern Israel Thursday. A ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers took effect Wednesday night, bringing an end to eight days of fierce fighting. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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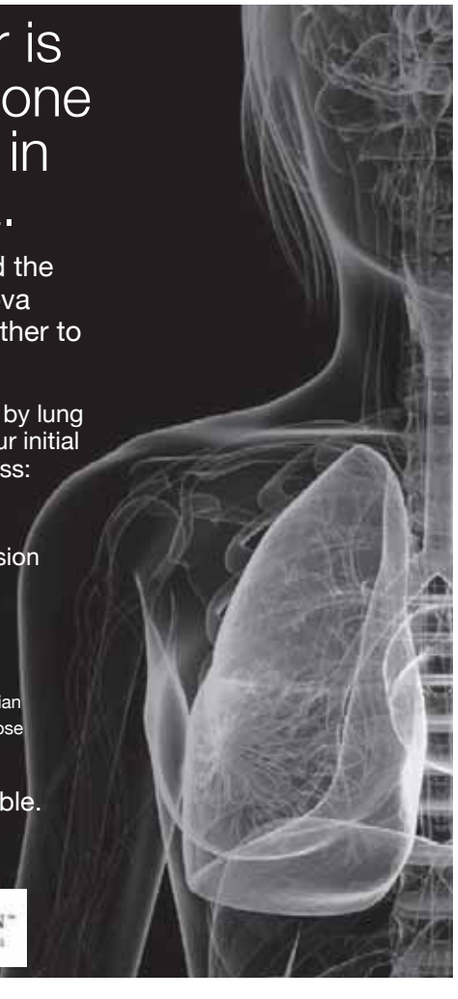
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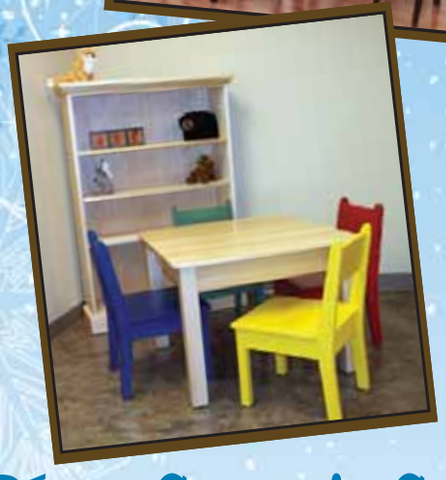
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Congo. Rebels vow to press ahead with offensive into eastern Congo

Congolese soldiers and rebel fighters battled for hours over the eastern town of Sake on Thursday, forcing thousands of people to flee as the militants seeking to overthrow the government vowed to push forward despite mounting international pressure.

Meanwhile, the leader of the rebel group known as M23 headed to neighbouring Uganda where emergency talks were held this week between the presidents of Congo and its neighbours Uganda and Rwanda.

Fighting broke out Thursday just before noon in Sake, which the rebels had seized Wednesday after capturing the strategic provincial capital of Goma, about 27 kilometres away.

Rebel spokesman Lt. Col. Vianney Kazarama vowed that the fighters would press on and seize the strategic eastern town of Bukavu, which would mark the biggest gain in rebel territory in nearly a decade if it were to fall.



Women run for safety as soldiers and rebel fighters battled in the eastern Congo town of Sake on Thursday. Thousands fled as militants seeking to overthrow the government vowed to push ahead. JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No oversight. Egypt's president grants himself far-reaching powers

Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi issued constitutional amendments on Thursday that placed him above judicial oversight and ordered the retrial of Hosni Mubarak for the killing of protesters in last year's uprising.

Morsi also decreed immunity for the Islamist-dominated panel drafting a new constitution from any possible court decisions to dissolve it, a threat that had been hanging over the controversial assembly.

The moves effectively remove any oversight on Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood figure who became Egypt's first freely elected president last summer after the Feb. 11, 2011, fall of Mubarak. They come as Morsi is riding high on lavish praise from President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton for mediating an end to eight days of fighting between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giving the gift of sight to hundreds of Indonesians

Healing camps.
Country has one of the highest rates of blindness in the world



A young patient has a weight put on his eye after receiving local anesthesia before cataract surgery at Putri Hijau military hospital in Medan, Indonesia. BINSAR BAKKARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

They came from the remotest parts of Indonesia, taking crowded overnight ferries and riding for hours in cars or buses, all in the hope that a simple, and free, surgical procedure would restore their eyesight.

Many patients were elderly and needed help to reach two hospitals in Sumatra where mass eye camps were held this month by Nepalese surgeon Dr. Sanduk Ruit. During eight days, more than 1,400 cataracts were removed.

The patients camped out, sleeping side-by-side on military cots, eating donated food while fire trucks supplied them with water for showers and toilets.

Many who had given up hope of ever seeing again left smiling after their bandages were removed.

"I've been blind for three years, and it's really bad," said Arlita Tobing, 65, whose sight was restored after the surgery. "I worked on someone's farm, but I couldn't work anymore."

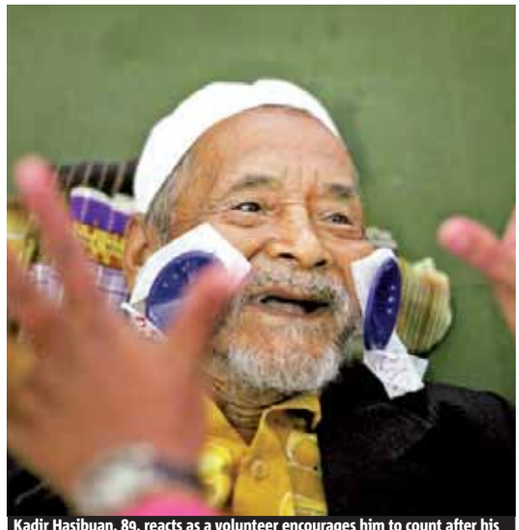
Indonesia has one of the highest rates of blindness in the world, making it a target country for Ruit, who travels throughout the developing world holding free mass eye camps while training doctors to perform the simple, stitch-free procedure he pioneered.

He often visits hard-to-reach remote areas where health care is scarce and patients are poor. He believes that by teaching doctors how to perform his method of cataract removal, the rate of blindness can be reduced worldwide.

"We get only one life, and that life is very short. I am blessed by God to have this opportunity," said Ruit, who runs the Tilganga Eye Center in Kathmandu, Nepal. "The most important of that is training, taking the idea to other people." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The blight of blindness

- Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness globally, affecting about 20 million people who mostly live in poor countries, the World Health Organization says.
- During the recent camps, Ruit trained six doctors from Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.



Kadir Hasibuan, 89, reacts as a volunteer encourages him to count after his eye patches were removed after his cataract surgery. Indonesians flocked to the hospital for free cataract surgery performed by a team led by Nepalese master surgeon Dr. Sanduk Ruit. BINSAR BAKKARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Wife of ex-Ivory Coast leader charged with rape, murder

Simone Gbagbo. International Criminal Court unseals indictment against former first lady

The International Criminal Court unsealed an indictment Thursday against former Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo's wife on charges including murder, rape and persecution. It was the first time in the court's 10-year history it has charged a woman.

The world's first permanent war-crimes tribunal said the arrest warrant was issued on Feb. 29 for former first lady Simone Gbagbo for crimes against humanity.

Her husband is in custody at the court's detention unit in The Hague facing similar charges stemming from his fight to retain power after losing a 2010 presidential election. If his wife is extradited, they could face justice together in an unprecedented husband-wife trial.

But a senior member of Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara's government, who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media, said Ivory Coast has already informed the ICC that the nation will not let her go.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mounting tension

The Ivory Coast told the ICC "a long time ago" it will not extradite Simone Gbagbo.

- **Hoping for a change of heart.** The court's chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, urged Ivory Coast to extradite Gbagbo.
- **More to come.** Bensouda said prosecutors continue to investigate crimes committed by both sides in Ivory Coast's bloody power struggle and expect to issue further arrest warrants in the future.



Simone Gbagbo, wife of Laurent Gbagbo, reacts during a pro-Gbagbo rally at the Palace of Culture in the Treichville neighbourhood of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in this Jan. 15, 2011, photo. REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

West Africa

Hundreds of children freed from forced labour in Burkina Faso

Police found children, some as young as six, working deep in gold mines and cotton fields around Burkina Faso. They were unpaid and unschooled. Some were being sexually abused.

An international police operation has freed nearly 400 children from forced labour in the West African country and arrested 73 people suspected of child trafficking or forced labour, Interpol announced Thursday.

It was a rare victory against forced child labour in West Africa, which has some of the world's highest poverty rates. Young boys are often sent to work as hired hands in other people's fields or are employed in the numerous mines that dot the countryside. Young girls are frequently sent to work as maids in the homes of the urban elite.

The Interpol-organized operation in Burkina Faso targeted children sold and forced into labour by traffickers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Colossal mutant frog casts dark shadow over New York

The Kermit the Frog balloon makes its way down New York's Central Park West in celebration of the 86th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House holiday

Obama gives Thanksgiving thanks to troops

U.S. President Barack Obama celebrated Thanksgiving quietly at the White House with his family, friends and staff members after phoning 10 members of the U.S. armed services in Afghanistan.

Obama, as has been his practice during previous holidays, reached out to service members from the army, air force, marine corps and navy.

"The president thanked each of them for their service and sacrifice and wished them and their families a happy Thanksgiving," White House officials said.

The president was joining his wife Michelle and their daughters, Sasha and Malia, later Thursday for dinner, where they were to be joined by White House staff members and guests.

The menu included ham, oyster stuffing, and macaroni and cheese along with the traditional turkey, sweet potatoes, green-bean casserole and pie. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toy stories

Salvation Army drowning in toys

The Salvation Army says it has been overwhelmed by people offering to help out since news spread of the theft of some $2 million worth of toys and donations.

It's believed as many as 100,000 toys were stolen over an almost two-year period from the charity's warehouse in Toronto.

The Salvation Army says it only became aware of the thefts after a whistleblower came forward in August.

Spokesman John Murray says the response from people wanting to help replace the toys has been overwhelming.

Harold Chizick of the Toronto toy company Spin Master says when the company heard the news, it knew it had to do something.

So it's donating more than $100,000 worth of toys to the Salvation Army.

Murray has said he believes the alleged theft is an isolated incident and has urged people not to lose confidence in the charity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RIM. Shares jump 17%, but analysts stay cautious

Shares in Research In Motion spiked dramatically Thursday after days of steady gains, but analysts were still guarded about the potential success of the BlackBerry maker's new operating system.

On a day when the U.S. markets were closed, shares in Research In Motion surged 17.3 per cent to close at $12, up $1.77, its best performance in months on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Telecom analyst Troy Crandall predicted, however, that the BlackBerry 10 operating system has only a small probability of successfully taking consumers away from Apple and Android devices when it's released in early 2013.

Crandall also said he doesn't consider it normal that shares in Research In Motion surged 17 per cent in a single day.

"Stocks should not have this type of volatility unless there's something extraordinary going on below the surface," he said. "I think that's really what you're getting and a lot of that is coming from the short selling and it's magnified by the fact that the U.S. markets are closed." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's not that we're super hopeful that this is going to work out."

Telecom analyst Troy Crandall, on the odds of BB10 luring consumers away from competing devices

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.28¢ (-0.07¢)

TSX 12,153.10 (+53.04)

OIL Closed

GOLD Closed

Natural gas: Closed
Dow Jones: Closed

Beker injects some attitude into plus-size clothing

Retail. Fashion guru's capsule collection for Addition Elle aims to fill gap in market

With a sister and childhood friend who are both plus-sized, the lament about a lack of stylish options for full-figured women was one Jeanne Beker has heard plenty.

"My whole life growing up I heard those kinds of complaints and the kinds of frustration that they were going through," the longtime fashion and media maven and Metro columnist said in an interview.

"Everything just seemed so 'missy,' or people were complaining about the kinds of prints that they were being offered, and they weren't being offered a lot of that same attitude that we saw in the regular-sized lines. Now, it's all coming together."

Beker will be putting her own sartorial stamp on fashions for fuller-figured women through a partnership with Addition Elle.

The style columnist and Fashion Television Channel host teamed up with the retailer on a plus-size capsule collection. The collaboration will bring extended sizing of the Edit by Jeanne Beker line to Addition Elle stores starting next spring.

Edit by Jeanne Beker launched at the Bay in 2010, a line she envisioned as essentials to be mixed and matched and serve as the "bare bones" of a woman's wardrobe.

Beker said about two seasons into the creation of Edit, they made a foray into the plus-size market. While some of the pieces "would just fly off the rack," she said others weren't resonating to the same degree.

"We started thinking: 'You know, what are we doing wrong?' because the regular-sized line is doing so well.... And what we realized was that some pieces just don't translate." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jeanne Beker, left, with a model wearing items from the Edit by Jeanne Beker for Addition Elle capsule collection, which will arrive in stores next April. ADDITION ELLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"There really has been a void in the (plus-size) market, I think, for clothes that just were sophisticated in a sense, but with a hip kind of maybe edge to them — like a kind of attitude we weren't seeing." Jeanne Beker

Collection

- The 19-piece capsule collection will feature fashions ranging in size from 14 to 24 with items priced between $69.99 and $139.99.
- The debut spring line will arrive at 50 Addition Elle stores across Canada next April.



Old-fashioned layaway returns to retail scene

Credit crunch. Maxed-out shoppers bring instalment concept back into vogue



Wedding consultant Shirley-Anna Thompson, who purchased all her dresses on a layaway plan at David's Bridal when she renewed her vows this year, hangs up dresses as she works at the Toronto store. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Most holiday shoppers will be armed with cash, debit or credit cards during the busiest shopping season of the year, but for those on a tight budget, the layaway counter can provide an affordable way to buy gifts.

Layaway allows people to buy an item by putting down a deposit and paying off the rest in instalments, usually without interest. Some stores do charge a service or storage fee. Once the item is paid off, you're free to bring it home.

This buying option may seem an antiquated way of doing things, especially in a society used to the immediate gratification of credit.

Layaway was introduced during the Great Depression, but easy credit and boom times had made it mostly a thing of the past. The concept has become in vogue again, thanks in part to belt-tightening since the recession.

In September, Toys "R" Us and Walmart in the U.S. announced they were starting their layaway plans a month earlier than last year due to demand from customers who said they needed extra time to pay the purchases off. Both companies, along with Kmart and Sears, revised their plans and dropped the service charges for the holiday season.

The buying option, however, is rarer in Canada. It is not available at Toys "R" Us and Sears in Canada and there's only a number of Walmart stores that still offer layaway north of the border.

But Doug Stephens, retail analyst and president of Retail Prophet Consulting, said the practice may soon become more common in Canada.

"We're going to see it more and more in the very near future because it's no secret now that Canadians are coming into the end of their string on credit. We are significantly overleveraged in this country."

According to Statistics Canada, household debt has risen to 163 per cent of disposable income. Last week, credit reporting agency TransUnion released a report that found Canadian debt loads grew at their fastest pace in two years during the most recent quarter.

"What (layaway) says to the consumer is that the retailer cares about them. In the sense that they appreciate the fact that many consumers right now are trying desperately to pay down credit, they don't want to take on more credit," explained Stephens.

Layaway, he says, keeps the consumer from walking away completely and simply abandoning the purchase. Customers come back to make their payments in instalments, which may result in more purchases.

"Rather than having a consumer walk in and walk out, at least it gives the retailer a sale, albeit an incomplete sale."

Steve Tissenbaum, retail management professor at Ted Rogers School of Retail Management at Ryerson University, cautions against the use of layaway. "In a way, the retailer is becoming your banker," Tissenbaum explains. "Rather than giving you the one per cent you get in a savings account, they're charging you a small fee for saving this money for you, and not only that but saving that product for you."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Read the fine print

- Experts suggest you research layaway before you commit. The practice is unregulated and policies differ from store to store. Some require a deposit from five to 25 per cent. There are retailers that set a date for you to make payments while others let you decide.
- Tatiana Chabeaux-Smith, manager of corporate communications at Consumer Protection BC, warned consumers to "really read the fine print."
- "Get (the policy) in writing," she said. "Don't take a sales person's word for it."
- Pay particular attention to the retailer's return and cancellation policies under the layaway plan. Some retailers forfeit the contract if a payment is missed, leaving you without the item and the deposit. Others are more flexible.



No ‘risky’ spending in 2013, Flaherty says

Ottawa. Consultations on budget begin next week

Canadians shouldn’t expect any “risky new spending schemes” or tax increases in the next federal budget, as the Conservatives push ahead with plans to balance the budget by 2015, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Thursday.

Flaherty, speaking to a business audience, said the government plans to get back to a balanced budget “during the current parliamentary term and certainly before the next election.”

He said the government will not reduce transfers to provinces and territories for education and health care, that makes up about one-third of the budget. Nor will the government touch spending on individuals like seniors, people with disabilities and children, another third of the budget, he added.

So, Flaherty said, the government is left to focus on the final third of the budget — program spending.

The government’s latest deficit projections, released last week, show a deficit of $26 billion — up $5 billion from the budget forecast last March, due to global economic weakness that has cut into commodity prices and tax revenues.



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty
FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The gloomy numbers prompted Ottawa to delay its hopes of balancing the books until 2016-2017, a year later than previously forecast, however both Flaherty and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have insisted the government can still balance the budget by 2015.

Budget consultations, Flaherty said, will begin next week.

Flaherty noted that Canada continues to outperform its peers in economic measures like job creation, but said there are still numerous challenges from outside its borders — the most immediate of which being the U.S. looming “fiscal cliff,” a series of tax hikes and spending cuts set to take place in the new year if politicians can’t agree to an alternative plan.

If U.S. lawmakers cannot agree on a budget plan before the deadline, the tax hikes and spending cuts threaten to return the U.S. back into recession and potentially drag Canada down.

“We can’t afford to be complacent, this is especially true in the case of volatility in the world economy,” Flaherty said.

With the global economic recovery progressing slowly and threatened on several fronts, the minister did say he’s prepared to be flexible if needed, but his plan is to stick to “balanced budgets and low taxes.”

“I’m not going to raise taxes on business, large or small, that will make it hard for a company to expand at a time when too many Canadians are still looking for a job,” Flaherty said in prepared notes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Appeal underway

OSC sets aside Jaguar Financial CEO’s suspension

A two-year suspension and $625,000 fine imposed on Jaguar Financial chief executive Vic Alboini has been set aside at least temporarily by the Ontario Securities Commission pending an appeal by Alboini and two others.

Alboini has been a prominent critic of the board at Research In Motion, but the sanctions imposed against him were on an unrelated matter involving his role as CEO of Northern Securities Inc.

A non-government body that regulates Canada’s securities industry found that Alboini and two other senior executives at Northern failed to comply with several of its rules.

The Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada announced Alboini’s suspension on Nov. 12 and Jaguar announced the next day that he and the other executives sanctioned by IIROC would appeal to Ontario’s securities commission.

IIROC said Alboini was in a key position at Northern when he engaged in a trading practice that enabled Jaguar to obtain unapproved access to credit between August and November in 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec railcar plant. Bombardier set for lengthy work disruption

Bombardier is bracing for what could be a lengthy strike at its Quebec railcar assembly plant after workers rejected what the company characterized as a generous offer that raises wages and pension benefits and contained a commitment to invest in new technology.

“Don’t worry, we’ve got our contingency plans and we could go a long way,” company spokesman Marc Laforge said Thursday, hours after union members massively rejected Bombardier’s “final” contract offer.

He said the company has a long-term vision for the plant and has no immediate plans to transfer work to its other facilities in Thunder Bay, Ont., Plattsburgh, N.Y. and Mexico.

But he said Bombardier will meet its commitment to deliver 420 Toronto subway cars and interior finishings for 706 Chicago transit cars. It also has contracts for 100 multi-level New Jersey transit cars, 54 multi-level cars for Maryland transit, along with nearly 500 Montreal Metro cars, which aren’t yet in production.

Nearly 90 per cent of the votes cast at a meeting of the workers at the rail-equipment plant northeast of Quebec City were against the deal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

China. Improved manufacturing figures are sign of recovery

China’s manufacturing expanded for the first time in 13 months in November in a further sign that the world’s No. 2 economy is recovering from its deepest slump since the 2008 global crisis. World stocks and oil prices rose on the improving data.

HSBC Corp. said its monthly Purchasing Managers’ Index improved to 50.4 for November on a 100-point scale on which numbers over 50 indicate expansion. That was a moderate improvement from October’s 49.5. It is the first time in 13 months that the reading has been above 50.

The PMI index measures overall manufacturing activity by surveying numerous indicators including orders, employment and actual production.

The Chinese numbers are rare good news for the world economy, which has slowed as Europe’s chronic debt crisis worsened and the U.S. economy stagnated. Benchmark stock indexes in Hong Kong, Japan, Britain and Germany posted gains, and crude oil prices moved up.

HSBC economist Qu Hongbin said the survey shows that China’s economic recovery is gaining momentum, but still remains fragile. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREY CUP KICKS OFF, TWINKIE DEMISE MAY BE INTERCEPTED



THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Snack attack:** Newly defunct Hostess Brands Inc., which brought you Twinkies and Ding Dongs, is liquidating its assets. Major competitor Flower Foods saw its stock rise amid rumours it may acquire parts of Hostess's business. They are especially optimistic about states with legalized marijuana.

2 **Stay tuned:** The CBC has asked the CRTC to ease regulations so it can respond to changing technological demands. Details of the proposal were missed by CRTC members struggling to adjust the coat hangers on their antennae.

3 **Quantum leap:** Astronomers have discovered a new planet thought to be 13 times larger than Jupiter, and 2.5 times the mass of the sun. So my question is, how did we miss this? Thank you for making my fourth-grade science teacher look like a putz.

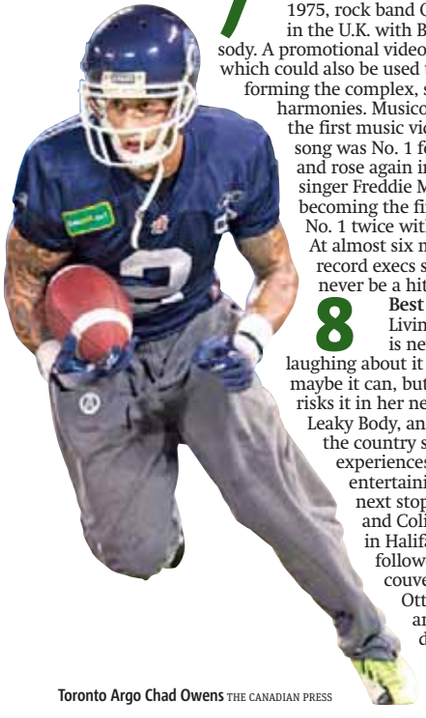
4 **Swift reaction:** Apparently, Taylor Swift was not amused by jokes of her breakup at the CMAs, marking the point that comes for all celebrities when they begin taking themselves too seriously. Imagine joking publicly about a song that's based on her private relationship and that, over the last three months, has been played more than the national anthem. Well, I never, ever, ever ...

5 **Love hurts.** Last July in Florida, a 72-year-old husband was stabbed in the arm by his 27-year-old wife after he accused her of cheating (you don't say). Now separated, Brygida Scheffler told police she's seen her ex drive by her home, and believes he is stalking her. Maciej Nowicki says he did not "intentionally" follow her. He probably just forgot where he lived ... and that she stabbed him!

6 **100th Grey Cup.** The Toronto Argos play host to the Calgary Stampeders on Sunday, and people from coast to coast are pumped for this historic event. The game will feature performances by everyone from Burton Cummings and Gordon Lightfoot to Justin Bieber and Carly Rae Jepsen. The only drawback is that we'll have to hear Call Me Maybe one more freakin' time.

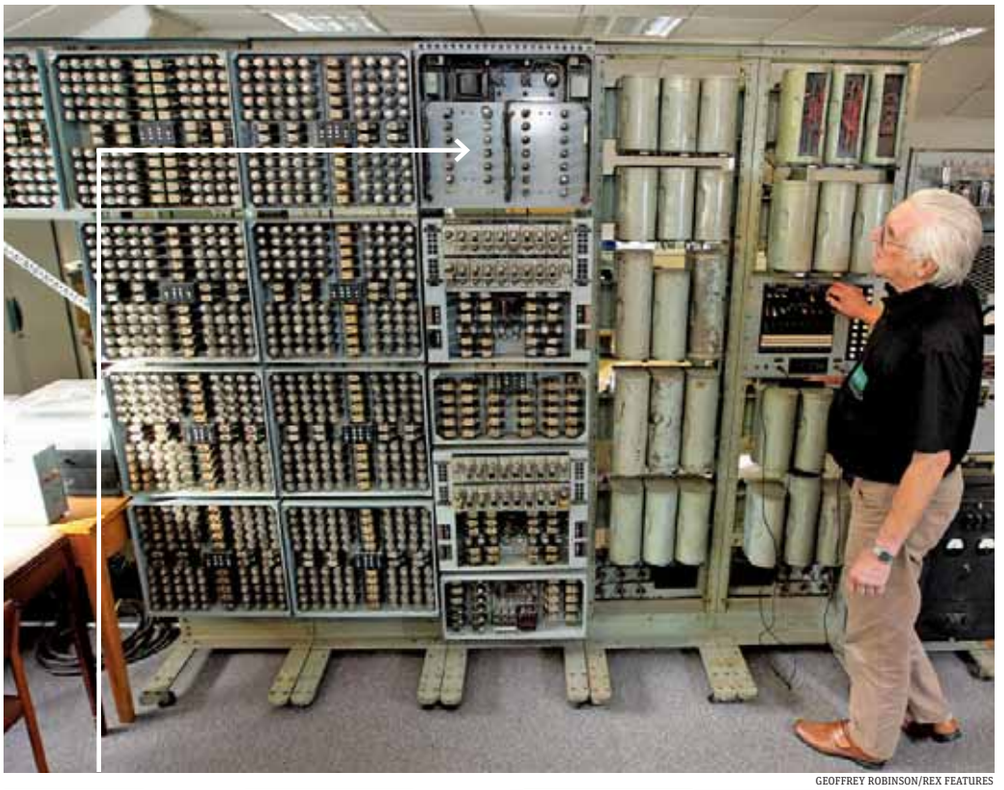
7 **We Will Rock You.** This week in 1975, rock band Queen was No. 1 in the U.K. with Bohemian Rhapsody. A promotional video was released, which could also be used to avoid performing the complex, studio-perfected harmonies. Musicologists call this the first music video ever. The song was No. 1 for nine weeks, and rose again in 1991 after singer Freddie Mercury died, becoming the first song to make No. 1 twice with one version. At almost six minutes long, record execs said it would never be a hit.

8 **Best medicine.** Living with illness is never fun, but laughing about it can't hurt. Well, maybe it can, but Julie Devaney risks it in her new book, My Leaky Body, and she is touring the country sharing her experiences in the most entertaining way. Her next stop is the Crohn's and Colitis symposium in Halifax on Sunday, followed by Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Kingston and Montreal. For details, check out myleakybody.com.



Toronto Argo Chad Owens THE CANADIAN PRESS

OK, computer, say hello to 2012



GEOFFREY ROBINSON/REX FEATURES

Digital devices

Fossilized hardware resuscitated

The world's oldest original working digital computer has been rebooted after lying forgotten in storage for 20 years.

The 61-year-old Harwell Dekatron (a.k.a. Witch) computer has clattered back into action at The National Museum of Computing, based at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, England, after a three-year restoration project. METRO

Number crunching

Designed to be reliable, but not fast

The machine — one of a dozen in the world — was first used in the 1950s at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment in Oxfordshire for mathematical modelling.

It has survived over the last six decades while its contemporaries have been recycled or destroyed. The computer took up to 10 seconds to multiply two numbers, but still mustered 80 hours of running time in a week. METRO

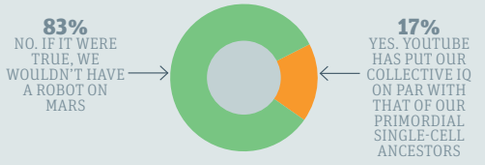
How they compare

	Witch (1951)	iPhone 5 (2012)
• **Input.**	Punched paper tape	Touchscreen
• **Weight.**	2,540 kilograms	112 grams
• **Size.**	2 m x 6 m x 1 m	12.4 cm x 5.9 cm x 0.8 cm
• **Memory.**	7.2 KB	16 GB
• **Speed.**	100 hertz	8 megahertz
• **Control.**	18 switches	One button

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Do you agree with a U.S. biologist who says human intelligence has been on the decline since cavemen roamed the Earth?



Twitter

@Hawcomusic: I like that the stores have a Black Friday sale here is Halifax, only issue is the regular price is a lot higher than what they were last wk

@cwsparker: Harper won't go to Halifax cause the people might just tell him to go back to Alberta. #cdnpoli

@EverettColdwell: By avoiding premiers' conference in Halifax, Harper is showing Canadians that PMO's management of his image is more important than Canada.

@sfemonster: I am one reflective vest and a cigarette away from looking exactly like every road construction worker in Halifax.

@annakstott: Another beautiful day in Halifax, dont think i've seen a cloud for about a week #lovely #crisp

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Need a film to lighten the zombie experience? Try Shaun of the Dead HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



Films to occupy in the zombie off-season

Bye, bye brain eaters. With The Walking Dead season drawing to an end, the Reel Guys offer some undead suggestions

Richard: Mark, several episodes from this season's Walking Dead were among the best television of the year. It owes a HUGE debt to George A. Romero's classic Night of the Living Dead, but I still watch even though it gives me weird dreams every Sunday night. To calm my jangled nerves, I've been checking out zombie comedies like Shaun of the Dead and Cemetery Man. Everyone knows Shaun, but Cemetery's weird story is worth a look. Are you a zombie fan?

Mark: Depends on the zombie, Richard. I didn't get a chance to catch up with the Walking Dead series because I was too busy watching the brainwashed terrorist zombies in Homeland. A different kind of zombie, to be sure, but zombies all the same. I think the faster the zombies move, the more I like the movie. Those slow-walking, arms-outstretched flesh eaters aren't that different than most of the clubbers I see at closing time on Saturday nights. I've never seen Cemetery Man, but it looks interesting. Thanks for the tip.

RC: The whole slow-moving zombies versus fast-moving zombies debate is an argument for the ages. I guess I'm a traditionalist. I like the Romero zombie, the bumbling undead who mindlessly and relentlessly keep hunting for braaains. Dawn of the Dead, I Walked with a Zombie and Lucio Fulci's Zombi are masterpieces of the slow shuffle. You might like the remake of Dawn of the Dead. Man those zombies can run!

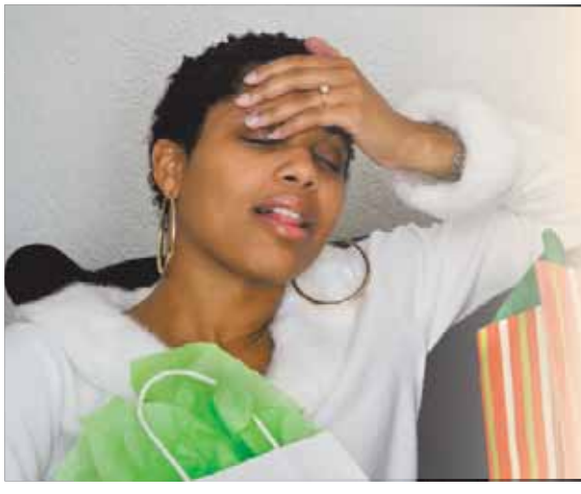
MB: I did like that one, along with Zombieland, Dead Snow (Nazi zombies, what's not to like?), and the zombie comedy (zomcom?) Fido starring Billy Connelly as a kindly zombie. But the big question in all the zombie films is: How do you get away from a zombie? Well, it seems that the meat that tastes closest to human flesh is pig! So I say, when confronted with a pack of zombies, let loose the porkers!

RC: Good advice. I'd add another zombie apocalypse tip I picked up from the movie Zombieland. You are at your most vulnerable while sitting on the toilet, so hold it as long as you can. Also, having a machine gun where your leg used to be, à la Rose McGowan in Planet Terror, can be very useful.

MB: I'm old school, Richard. I prefer having both legs to utilize the strategy of actually running away. And remember, when being chased by a zombie, you don't have to be the fastest runner, just faster than the guy behind you.

Synopsis

As The Walking Dead shambles toward its season finale in December, the Reel Guys suggest some infectious zombie movies to keep you entertained until the show lumbers back to air next year.



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Twilight's mysterious Volturi provide plenty of spinoff potential. HANDOUT

Twilight's little piece of forever to get more time on the big screen?

Spinoff speculation. The last film in the series has hit theatres, and the Twilight team won't dismiss rumours of another installment

The thing about vampires is they live forever.

And so now that the blockbuster Twilight saga has unleashed its sprawling finale, it's only fitting that speculation runs rampant about a spinoff that could keep the franchise undead for a little while longer.

Vampire-playing cast mates Daniel Cudmore and Charlie Bewley sure don't mind stirring up rumours with their own suggestions of life after Breaking Dawn — Part 2, and not surprisingly it involves more adventures for their mysterious side characters.

"You do wonder what will happen once this is all said and done," says Bewley, who plays Demetri, a member of an ancient ruling clan known as the Volturi.

"(There are) lots of willing people ready to start new subsidiaries of this saga, so that's just down to Lionsgate/Summit, (author) Stephenie Meyer and whoever's in the reckoning."

Last weekend's blockbuster debut came with whispers of possible ways for the supernatural series to live on. Screenwriter Melissa Rosenberg stirred the pot last month with a Facebook poll asking which vampire clan should get a spinoff and stars Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner each said they'd be open to a followup. Meyer, meanwhile, has reportedly said she's got plenty of story ideas but dismissed notions anything solid is in the works.

There's no question that an off-shoot could flesh out a supernatural world that expanded greatly in Breaking Dawn — Part 2.

The story, however, centres on lovestruck teen Bella Swan, played by Kristen Stewart, and her new life as a powerful vampire. Here, she's settling into domestic life with her century-old sire and husband Edward Cullen, played by Pattinson, and their magical half-vampire daughter, Renesmee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finally, critical praise

Twilight actor Charlie Bewley says it's gratifying to see the fifth Twilight film being embraced by solid critical reviews after earlier installments took widespread beatings. "It's not made for everyone," he says. "(But) it was made for the people who made the book series so cult and popular in the first place."





There's more than One Direction for a documentary filmmaker to take

Morgan Spurlock. Oscar-nominated filmmaker sparks discussion with his new boy-band based project



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



Morgan Spurlock is embarking on a 3D film project with One Direction. GETTY IMAGES

Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock (Super Size Me) announced last week that he would be directing a 3D concert film about the hit British boy band One Direction for theatrical release next September, with American Idol and the X Factor mastermind Simon Cowell producing.

"This is an incredible opportunity and an amazing moment in time for the band," Spurlock says in a statement. "To capture this journey and share it with audiences around the world will be an epic undertaking that I am proud to be a part of."

What's perhaps most surprising about the news, though, is how often the project has been referred to as a documentary in the press. While the trend has been to incorporate more and more backstage and off-stage footage into concert films — as with last year's Justin Bieber film Never Say Never and Katy Perry's Part of Me earlier this year — do they really qualify as documentaries? Or does the label have to do more with Spurlock's involvement. We decided to check in with some experts.

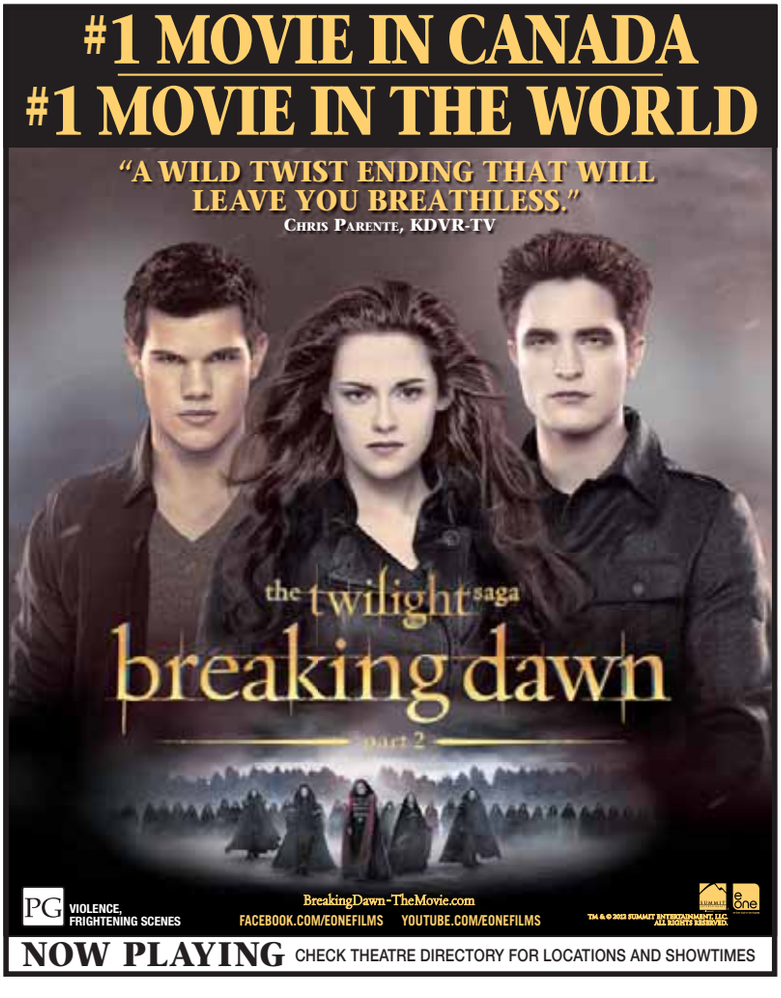


Morgan Spurlock has gone from documenting fast food to fodder for boy band fans. GETTY IMAGES

"We have seen over time that the perceived definition of documentary film has radically changed. The one constant is that these films have continued to follow factual information about the subject they are documenting and that is important," Justin Krumb, director of the doc Minds in the Water, tells Metro. "So in the case of Spurlock's new project, I believe this a true documentary, in that sense of the word, but one that falls into a new subcategory that relates to the phenomenon of reality TV/celebrity power. What's missing that I'd love to see is how these films bring about social change. How they alter our feeling to go out and change the world in a positive way or call attention to an issue that needs to be addressed."

Some of Spurlock's colleagues are willing to wait and see how he fares with his new singing and dancing subjects before passing judgment. "I know a bit about the project and from what I understand I'm not sure it's a concert film at all," says Lucy Walker, an Oscar nominee herself for Waste Land and the Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom. "Why not let him explore all aspects of filmmaking and give him the benefit of the doubt until we've seen it?"





THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 23 TO THURS., NOV. 29. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Halifax

Bayers Lake
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 12-3:10-6:20-9:30
Imax
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800
Argo (14) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:45-9:50
Flight (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 12:15-3:25-6:40-9:45
Life of Pi (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 1:10-7:30-10:25
Life of Pi 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 4-7:20-10:15
Pitch Perfect (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:40-10:15
Red Dawn (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:50-10:10
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 1-3:50
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-7-9:20
The Sessions (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:25-3:35-6:50-9:55
Silver Linings Playbook (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:10-10
Skyfall (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Sun 12:10-1:30-3:20-4:40-6:30-7:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 12:10-1:30-3:20-4:40-6:30-7:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 1:30-3:20-4:40-6:30-7:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 12:10-1:30-3:20-4:40-6:30-7:50-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Sun 1:30-1:50-2-4:15-4:30-4:45-7:15-7:25-7:35-7:45-9:55-10:05-10:20-10:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 1:30-1:50-2-4:15-4:30-4:45-7:25-7:35-7:45-9:55-10:05-10:20-10:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 1:30-1:50-2-4:15-4:30-4:45-7:15-7:25-7:35-7:45-9:55-10:05-10:20-10:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 1:30-1:50-2-4:15-4:30-4:45-7:25-7:35-7:45-9:55-10:05-10:20-10:30
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 12:40-3:15
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 12:30-3-6:30-9:05

Oxford Theatre
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

Lincoln (STC) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat 3-6:30-9:40 Sun 3:45-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:40

Park Lane
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Flight (STC) Fri 3:20-6:25-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:25-9:30 Mon-Tue 3:20-6:25-9:30 Wed-Thu 3:20-9:30
Life of Pi (STC) Fri 3:40 Sat-Sun 12:40 Mon-Thu 3:40
Life of Pi 3D (STC) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 3:40-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Otello Encore (STC) Sat 12
Red Dawn (STC) Fri 4:05-6:50-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:25 Mon-Tue 4:05-6:50-9:25 Wed 3:05-6:50-9:25 Thu 4:05-6:50-9:25
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Fri 3:55 Sat-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 3:55
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) Fri 7:20-9:55 Sat-Sun 3:15-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:55
Skyfall (14) Fri 3:25-6:30-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:25-6:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:30-9:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Fri 3:50-4:10-6:45-7:10-9:30-9:50 Sat 12:10-3:05-3:50-6:45-7:10-9:30-9:50 Sun 12:10-1:10-3:05-3:50-6:45-7:10-9:30-9:50 Mon-Tue 3:50-4:10-6:45-7:10-9:30-9:50 Wed 3:45-4:05-6:45-7:10-9:30-9:50 Thu 3:50-4:10-6:45-7:10-9:30-9:50
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Fri 4 Sat-Sun 1 Mon-Tue 4 Wed 3:30-7 Thu 4
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (STC) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:45 Mon-Tue 7-9:45 Wed 9:45 Thu 7-9:45

Lower Sackville

Lower Sackville
760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Flight (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:15-9:20 , Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 4:10-6:15-9:20 , Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:15-9:20
Life of Pi (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 3:20
Life of Pi 3D (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 6:20-9:15
Red Dawn (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:40-9:40 , Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 4:15-6:40-9:40 , Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 3:30
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 6:50-9:05
Skyfall (14) , Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:30-9 , Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 3:15-6:30-9 , Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:30-9
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, , No Passes Fri 7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, , No Passes Sat-Sun 4-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, , No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 7:10-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 3:45-7:10-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35

Dartmouth

Dartmouth Crossing
145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
902-481-3251

Argo (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 9:10
Flight (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Sat 12:30-3:45-6:55-9:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sun 12:30-3:45-7:35-9:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 12:30-3:45-6:55-9:55
Life of Pi (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Tue 1 Dolby Stereo, Thu 1
Life of Pi 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 4:10-7-9:45
Red Dawn (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-6:50-10:20
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:35-1:15-3:05-6:45
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 3:40-6:15-8:50
Skyfall (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 12:50-4-7:10-9:15 Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:20-3:15-6:25-9:35 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat 4-7:10-9:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sun-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-9:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Fri 1:10-1:20-1:40-2-3:50-4:20-4:30-4:45-6:40-7:15-7:30-8:40-9:25-10-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Sat 12:25-1:10-1:20-2-3:50-4:20-4:30-4:45-6:40-7:15-7:30-8:40-9:25-10-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Sun 1:10-1:20-1:40-2-3:50-4:20-4:30-4:45-6:40-7:15-7:30-9:25 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Mon 1:10-1:20-1:40-3:50-4:20-4:30-6:40-7:15-7:30-8:40-9:25-10-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Tue-Thu 1:10-1:20-1:40-2-3:50-4:20-4:30-4:45-6:40-7:15-7:30-8:40-9:25-10-10:15
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:55
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:20

Truro

Truro
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

Flight (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6:55-9:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2:35-6:55-9:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 6:55-9:15
Life of Pi 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6:35-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2:40-6:35-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 6:35-9:05
Red Dawn (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 7-9:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2:55-7-9:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 7-9:55
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6:40-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2:45-6:40-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 6:40-9:35
Skyfall (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6:30-9:25 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2:30-6:30-9:25 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 6:30-9:25
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital, No Passes Fri 6:45-9:30 , Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 2:50-6:45-9:30 , Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6:50-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 3-6:50-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 6:50-9:40

Bridgewater

Bridgewater
349 Lahave St.,
902-527-4020

Flight (STC) Fri 6:20-9:30 Sat 2:35-6:20-9:30 Sun 2:35-6:50 Mon 6:50 Tue 6:20-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:50
Life of Pi (STC) Fri-Sat 9:45 Tue 9:45
Life of Pi 3D (STC) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 2:40-7 Mon-Thu 7
Red Dawn (STC) Fri 7:05-9:25 Sat 3:30-7:05-9:25 Sun 3:30-7:30 Mon 7:30 Tue 7:05-9:25 Wed-Thu 7:30
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Fri-Sat 9:15 Tue 9:15
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) Fri 6:50 Sat 3:10-6:50 Sun 3:10-7:15 Mon 7:15 Tue 6:50 Wed-Thu 7:15
Skyfall (14) Fri 6:15-9:20 Sat 2:30-6:15-9:20 Sun 2:30-6:45 Mon 6:45 Tue 6:15-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) No Passes Fri 6:30-9:10 No Passes Sat 2:55-6:30-9:10 No Passes Sun 2:55-7:25 Mon 7:25 Tue 6:30-9:10 Wed-Thu 7:25
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Fri 6:40 Sat 3:20-6:40 Sun 3:20-7:05 Mon 7:05 Tue 6:40 Wed-Thu 7:05
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 9:05 Tue 9:05

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Movie makeup transformations

Critics love it when hot actors get by on more than their looks.

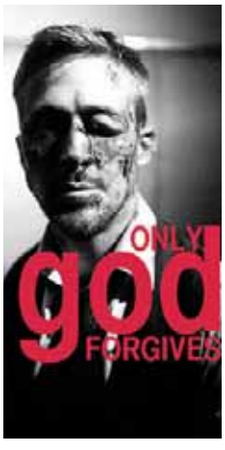
MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

The movie poster for Only God Forgives is an enigma.

It's a headshot of Ryan Gosling, yet one that no starstruck teen would ever swoon over. His mug appears beaten to a pulp and his left eye is as swollen shut as it would be after a round in the Octagon with Georges St-Pierre. Can you smell an Oscar?

Critics can't get enough of attractive thespians getting beaten with the ugly stick for art's sake.

It certainly worked for these actors who garnered big-time kudos for keeping their good looks on the down low.





Rooney Mara

Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Pre GWTDT Rooney was a fresh-face with an alluring yet ubiquitous girl-next-door vibe.

Dodging Freddie Krueger in the Nightmare on Elm Street remake and tearing Mark Zuckerberg a new one in The Social Network as the future Facebook billionaire's soon to be ex-girlfriend, she didn't exactly spellbind.

Then Mara chopped off her locks and transformed from a generic Hollywood hottie into an androgynous goth hacker with bleached eyebrows and piercings aplenty — a brunette version of Die Antwoord's Yolandi Visser.

Suddenly we couldn't take our eyes off of her.

CASHING IN: NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR, GOLDEN GLOBE AND MTV MOVIE AWARD.



Felicity Huffman

Transamerica

Huffman had already scored an Emmy for playing Lynette Sciavo on Desperate Housewives, but to ensure she wasn't forever typecast as a harried suburban soccer mom, in Transamerica she reshuffled her image.

To conceal her gender as a woman playing a preoperative male-to-female transsexual, Huffman dons a dumpy wig, unflattering lavender pantsuits and poorly applied make up.

Plus, she exposed the most talked about prosthetic penis in film since Mark Wahlberg's Boogie Nights reveal.

CASHING IN: NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR, AND WON A GOLDEN GLOBE AND INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARD.



Charlize Theron

Monster

The sultry South African beauty was virtually unrecognizable as a butch John-murdering prostitute. She packed on thirty pounds, hid her dazzling green eyes behind dark colored contact lenses and wore yellowed false teeth for the role.

To complete the cruel transition from glamazon to frumpy real-life serial killer, Theron swapped her A-list complexion in for a pasty mottled mess and shaved her eyebrows.

She also let stylists make her normally lustrous hair look in desperate need of a salon.

CASHING IN: "ONE OF THE GREATEST PERFORMANCES IN THE HISTORY OF CINEMA," RAVED ROGER EBERT, AND HE WASN'T ALONE. THERON WON A MANTLE'S WORTH OF MOVIE STAR HARDWARE FOR MONSTER, INCLUDING AN OSCAR AND A GOLDEN GLOBE.



Brad Pitt

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

How do you turn a perennial topper of world's sexiest man lists into a wrinkly octogenarian?

It took literally two years just to get the eye system component of the CGI wizardry that turned Pitt into a prune faced nursing home denizen working properly and nine months dedicated to writing the software articulation program for the computer generated tongue. For the first hour of the movie, the digitally rendered composite of an aged Pitt was seamlessly plopped onto various body actors.

While many reviewers bemoaned the three-hour run time of this majestic yarn as yawningly long, Pitt's performance as the age reversing titular character drew almost universal admiration.

CASHING IN: NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR, SCREEN ACTORS GUILD, GOLDEN GLOBE, AND TEEN CHOICE AWARD.



Cameron Diaz

Being John Malkovich

Diaz's typically exquisite tresses have been a focal point in previous films.

In There's Something about Mary her hairstyle is front and centre in the infamous scene where Diaz mistakes a glob of Ben Stiller's nerve nullifying pre-date deposit for hair gel.

As John Cusack's homely animal hoarding wife in this surreal Spike Jonze black comedy, we once again can't help but stare at her bob — a straggly, frizzy mess of a do.

We wonder if the same smiling, leggy beauty we all know and love is really under that nest and dowdy clothes.

CASHING IN: NOMINATED FOR A GOLDEN GLOBE, TEEN CHOICE, AND SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD.




Director Oliver Stone GETTY IMAGE

Noble tradition: Stone's new series to 'let the juicy stuff out' of American history

The Untold History of the United States. Controversial, talented director pairs up with professor to give alternate view of past

Oliver Stone has never been shy about ruffling feathers with his take on real-life events.

From J.F.K and Nixon, to Salvador and W, Stone has challenged the history taught in schoolbooks. His latest project, The Untold History of the United States, a 10-part series on the premium Showtime network, explores more facts he feels were suppressed, with new takes on the atomic bombing of Japan, the Cold War and the fall of Communism.

To maintain accuracy throughout the series, Stone partnered with Peter Kuznick, a history professor at American University. Kuznick was no stranger to Stone, having used Stone's films for years to provide perspective for his students. Both he and Stone feel history is often written with a happy ending.

Recently, Stone spoke to the Associated Press about the issues tackled in the series, the companion book, and his take on the General Petraeus scandal.

AP: What drives you to cover historical events with your own perspective?
This is a noble tradition. Sometimes it's funny that it sounds as if it's an illegitimate tradition, but it goes back — the Greeks did plays about ancient rulers. Shakespeare did a huge amount of plays about history. Some of them were more accurate than others, there's no question.

But you take a fair share of criticism?
I've never, ever by my own standard of ethics violated the trust of my audience by saying something that I knew to be false. I may have made some mistakes, but never did it on purpose, ever. I've been so tired of defending myself. It's become silly. ... (For this project) we've had three fact checks. There's a book. Sourcing is included, footnotes. The facts are indisputable. The interpretation is disputable, but at least the facts are there.

Why do people resist changes to the history we've learned?
We have told a coherent narrative that begins in 1900 and we've taken the darker view of the U.S. actions because I do believe in the U.S. textbooks that the kids learn there's a process by which things get sanitized out. The horror stories. The bad stuff, because kids love that and it's interesting that we're doing the opposite. Instead of giving them some horror stories, we tell them everything works out well in the end. ... I think my theory is they don't enjoy history, they don't like to study it because they know the ending and know it's going to be some sappy story the teacher tells them about how the U.S. does good in the end and that's sort of the trick, you see. We're going back and say(ing), "Let the juicy stuff out."

Give me an example?
Very few people know about how strong the English empire was going into World War II. (Franklin Delano) Roosevelt had a suspicion of the English empire and he was trying to balance the Soviet interests with American interests as well as British interests. He didn't want to be taken for a ride and save England to have England re-colonize the world, which is what they did.

There's new history being written with the General Petraeus scandal. What are your thoughts?
Frankly, it's not a big concern of mine. It's done. He's out. But it's sold again as a media-hyped narrative of a soap opera of a military hero, so-called, falling for a beautiful woman and being betrayed, and so forth, and he falls from stardom. Great story. The truth is that it's like a Shakespeare drama. Petraeus was never a hero. If the media had used the same investigative skills that they are using on this sordid sex affair, they would have found out that Petraeus was not what he seemed to be. He was not in combat. His genius in writing about counter-insurgency was to point out essentially that we use the journalists to control perception, because perception is more important than reality.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Why does Rob Lowe still look so young?

Beauty and Grooming Awards. The actor credits makeup artists, active living and hints at something in the works

JANINE FALCON
Metro World News

Rob Lowe has a certain genetic advantage when it comes to handsomeness.

But lots of handsome actors have aged less well than he has.

In fact, Lowe, whose filmography includes St. Elmo's Fire, The West Wing and currently Parks and Recreation, seems to have hardly aged at all. So when he was in Toronto to to host the Fourth Annual P&G Beauty and Grooming Awards on Nov. 19, Metro asked him straight out why he looks so good.

Is skin care important to you?
Whereas most guys don't want to deal with moisturizers or sunblock — the most rudimentary basic stuff — I have forever because it's part of my job and people are doing it for me (on set). My wife (Sheryl Berkoff) is a tremendously talented and accomplished makeup artist. I've been around her enough to learn from her.

A lot of it is how you live your life. The inside comes to the outside, so being active is a big part of it.

Staying interested in the world, staying relevant — all the stuff you need to do to have a career anyway in my business also helps you continue to be vital. That reads outwardly.

Do you have specific grooming tips from Sheryl?
I do — I have a top secret project that I'm working on, and I have very specific answers to that. And all will be revealed, but I can't do it right now. It's a subject I'm very, very interested in, and I think it's important for men today to get with the program.

The market in grooming is huge and growing and for good reason. It's just the latest manifestation of all personal growth that guys are trying to do.

They're trying to be better in every area of life, trying to live longer, to know more, to have better jobs, make their relationships better, so why wouldn't you physically also want to make yourself look as good as you can?

You play a health nut on Parks and Recreation. How much of that is part of your everyday life?
I've always been really, really physical. If I have time, I do something every day, whether it's swimming or surfing or tennis.

If I don't do it, I just don't feel good.

It's something I really enjoy, and I've been doing that since The Outsiders.

I wish I could be as healthy as my character, Chris Traeger. I'm a health enthusiast, not a health facist.

I have teenage boys at home. Eleven o'clock rolls around and that pizza is getting delivered, you need a stronger man than I to say no.

You have great hair; do you do anything special?
I'm a freak about haircuts. There's nothing better than a good haircut. It's like a great suit — it's not about the suit, it's about the tailoring. So it's not about how much hair you have or don't have or where it is, it's how it's cut. There are guys with no hair that look amazing, and guys with a lot of hair that look terrible.

I can't spend time on it. Most guys are like that. We don't want a hassle.

We want to do as little work as we can for maximum gain. By the way, that's true in every area of my life.




Rob Lowe has perfected the look of aging gracefully. GETTY IMAGES

Chris Colfer. Taking the next step with a film he wrote and stars in


Chris Colfer wrote and stars in Struck by Lightning. GETTY IMAGES

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Golden-Globe-winning actor. New York Times best-selling author. Named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People. Not bad for a 22-year-old. And now Chris Colfer is stepping up his game with Struck by Lightning, a film he wrote in high school and stars in, due out in January. It's also the title of Colfer's second novel, out Tuesday, written as the journal of the film's main character, Carson Phillips.

Turning a screenplay into a book seems like kind of a backward adaptation.
Oh, it totally was. It was really a very unique process. I wrote the screenplay, and the way the screenplay is formatted compared to the way the movie was edited is completely different. There are many scenes that were cut — well, there were many scenes that had to be cut because we couldn't afford to film them.

How do you want readers to experience the book as opposed to those seeing the movie?
The journal takes place over the course of his last few months alive and the movie takes place back and forth between his life and after his death. So I think the journal offers an inside look into everything that was going on in his head at the time — pursuing his goals and blackmailing his peers.

About that blackmailing: Did you worry about including dark material like that, considering the stances you've taken on causes like bullying and gay rights?
Not really. Everyone really has me on a very big role-model pedestal. But they forget that before I was a role model thanks to Glee, I was an actor. I don't think I'm ever going to worry about material that I create or portray that might affect my role model status. I'm always very cautious about things I say in interviews and how I present myself, but I don't think I'll ever be persuaded not to do a project or not write because I'm worried that people might think less of me.

Your resumé is quite impressive, as you're only 22 years old. Do you know something that the rest of us don't about how much time we have left?
No ... (laughs). And I swear to God, I don't have people helping me. I write everything authentically myself and by myself, and I don't really like working with other people. I don't think I can be creative with someone else. But I think it's just drive. I've always had this burning need to be a storyteller. Ever since I was a kid, it's what I love to do the most — create worlds and create characters.





Big or small screen, Tupper is Playing for Keeps

New movie. Actor becomes romantically entangled with Jessica Biel and Gerard Butler in the upcoming feature film

STEPHEN ERAMO
Metro World News


James Tupper stars in Playing for Keeps. HANDOUT

Handsome, talented and one of TV Guide's Sexiest Stars as well as Us Weekly's Sexiest TV Men, actor James Tupper has worked hard to make a name for himself on the big and small screens. He also happens to be a genuinely nice guy, which will likely have moviegoers rooting for him and his character in director Gabriele Muccino's upcoming feature film Playing for Keeps. It was Muccino's name that first attracted Tupper to the project.

"Gabriele directed The Pursuit of Happyness, and what I liked about the film was that it didn't shy away from showing a young boy growing up in poverty and its effects on him," says the actor. "Gabriele dealt with that head-on, and although Will Smith's character is a big hero in the film, what he goes through is brutal.

"Playing for Keeps is a romantic comedy, but part of it deals with divorce and its impact on children. That fascinated me, so I auditioned for the film, but I thought it went terrible because I didn't hear anything for about three weeks. Then one day I got a call asking if I could fly to Shreveport, La., to shoot the movie and I said, 'Are you kidding? You bet,'" he enthuses.

Quote

"Everyone involved in the movie was a terrific artist."
James Tupper

In Playing for Keeps, Matt (Tupper) unknowingly becomes a romantic rival when his fiancé Stacie's (Jessica Biel) ex-husband George (Gerard Butler), a former sports star who has fallen on hard times, comes back into her life and starts coaching their son's soccer team.

"As is often the case, the heart goes where it wants and the story becomes about everyone trying to be an adult and struggling with adult issues," explains Tupper. "I had a wonderful time because Gabriele never told me to dumb it down. He said, 'You go for it and be the best you can be.' Everyone involved in the movie was a terrific artist, and that made for an amazing (work) experience."

On TV, Tupper recently played the recurring role of David Clarke in the hit series Revenge. Currently, the actor is shooting executive producer Jerry Bruckheimer's new pilot, Secret Lives of Husband and Wives.

"It's the story of these suburban couples who are living seemingly normal lives, but then a surprising and violent event shakes up their world," he says.

"Everyone isn't quite who they appear to be and I'm hoping that audiences will enjoy finding out what's going on with these characters."

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A Very Merry Mid Century by décor consultant Caelin Nadin

A time of grace, new glamour and the return to elegance, will deck out 5855 Inglewood Drive, a home which was built in 1958. With a Very Merry Mid century theme, and warm tones of amber, chartreuse and cranberry; the home will boast a modern, yet nostalgic style of home décor with a festive spirit Mad Men style.

Shift Interiors Caelin Nadin is an interior decorator, yoga instructor and life coach. She unites her passions under one brand known as SHIFT mind-body-home. Caelin encourages her decor clients to nurture their true personality through colour, texture, and light.



A Nature Inspired Christmas by décor consultant Joanne Abrahams

With beautiful dark woodwork and traditional architecture, 1655 Beech Street will bring a nature inspired Christmas décor to work in harmony with the ambience of this beautiful home. A predominantly neutral furniture palette will enable the Christmas decorations with their pops of red to take centre stage.

Joanne Abrahams, wears two hats-that of home stager and that of interior decorator. As a home stager she prepares both lived –in and vacant properties for the real estate market. As a decorator she creates spaces that meet her clients' lifestyle needs and design tastes. Her portfolio includes residential and commercial spaces.



Winter Wonderland by décor consultant Julie Boudreau

Built in 1943, 1990 Woodlawn Terrace will be turned into a Winter Wonderland. The golden tones throughout the home will be contrasted with Christmas Decorations in cool icy silvers and whites, found on a snowy winter's eve, to capture the magic of the Holiday season. Other Christmas décor items with pops of bright colors add a bit of whimsy to this very elegant palette.

Julie Boudreau's ability to visualize the desired end results is what enables her to guide homeowners through the decorating process and point them in the right direction when it comes to creating that perfect space.

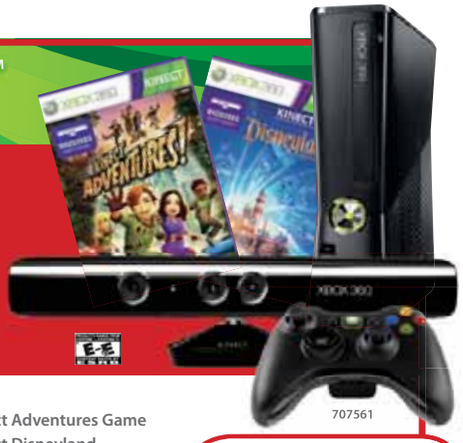
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Jimi Hendrix's new experience

A new Jimi Hendrix album is coming March 5.

The musician's website says People, Hell and Angels contains 12 previously unreleased tracks recorded in 1968 and '69.

Rolling Stone revealed the album cover on its website Wednesday.

Hendrix recorded the songs apart from the Jimi Hendrix Experience as he considered new, experimental directions for his followup to Electric Ladyland.

He plays keyboards, percussion and a second guitar on the album.

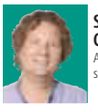
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jimi Hendrix is returning to store shelves. FILE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sufjan Stevens, Diamond Rings, kick off the Christmas shopping season

Now that Black Friday is upon us, it's officially Christmas season. Tired of the same old holiday tracks? Then try these. But be careful.



SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca



Mr. Frosty Man/Sufjan Stevens

1

Indie darling Sufjan Stevens spends an unhealthy amount of time writing Christmas songs. Mr. Frosty Man features a Claymation video that involves a rampaging snowman and, er, zombies.

Christmas in a Chinese Restaurant/ Diamond Rings

2

Not to be confused with the Canadian singer of the same name. This is a temporary group featuring members of Black Lips, Los Lobos and Deer Tick. It's sad.



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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Mayim Bialik

Big Bang's Mayim Bialik announces divorce from Michael Stone

Mayim Bialik and husband Michael Stone are divorcing after nine years of marriage and two children, the actress announced in a blog post on parenting site Kveller this week. "After much consideration and soul-searching, Michael and I have arrived at the decision to divorce due to 'irreconcilable differences,'" the Blossom and Big Bang Theory star writes. "Divorce is terribly sad, painful and incomprehensible for children. It is not something we have decided lightly."

Twitter



@EvaLongoria
Omg, this white/grey owl just landed on my balcony 5 feet away from me! Doesn't that symbolize something??!!



@ParisJackson
Can they make a settings for when you type on an iphone it makes a typewriter clicking sound and when you send a text it goes "cha-ching"



@ParisHilton
At home relaxing watching Honey Boo Boo. She is such a lil character, love her! Such a funny cute show. Lol



@EmWatson
I never feel so accomplished as when I open a tough jar.

The Word



Bieber and Gomez trying to iron out kinks in relationship



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez are actually back together and trying desperately to make their relationship work amid all the public scrutiny, a source close to the pair tells Radar Online. "The problem between them stemmed from Justin texting other girls," the source explains. "Selena is embarrassed by what he did because it makes her look stupid, that he would talk to these other girls, and she is also embarrassed that everyone is so invested in their relationship now because of his actions." And as for their dinner date in L.A. last week that ended with Gomez storming out? "There was no blow-up," the source says. "Selena is just super-embarrassed by all of this attention, and she got upset when they sat down and people were staring and pulling out their cellphones."



Taylor Swift ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Swift flirtations from Taylor and Harry Styles

As rumours emerge that Taylor Swift and One Direction member Harry Styles are dating, new details are coming out about their flirt-filled meeting at an X Factor rehearsal earlier this month. "They lit up when they saw each other," a source tells Us Weekly, adding that the pair spent most of the day together and that Swift "was a puppy dog" with Styles. And after being spotted walking hand-in-hand on set, the boy band star opted for a dramatic exit: "Harry picked her up and carried her to the trailer," the source says.



Kristen Stewart

Craig (eventually) gives Stewart Bond girl blessing

When asked at the Breaking Dawn — Part 2 premiere if she'd be interested in playing a Bond girl, Twilight star Kristen Stewart gave an emphatic, "Yes, hell yeah!" But not so fast, young lady. You have to get by Daniel Craig first. "No, she's in Twilight," Craig says during an interview in Australia with biting disdain in his voice, when asked about the idea. But he quickly laughed off his rancor, clarifying, "I've no problem with Kristen Stewart, I'm being nasty. I'm only saying that because (Breaking Dawn — Part 2) is coming out this weekend. We're in direct competition with them. And I'm sure she'd make a great Bond girl."

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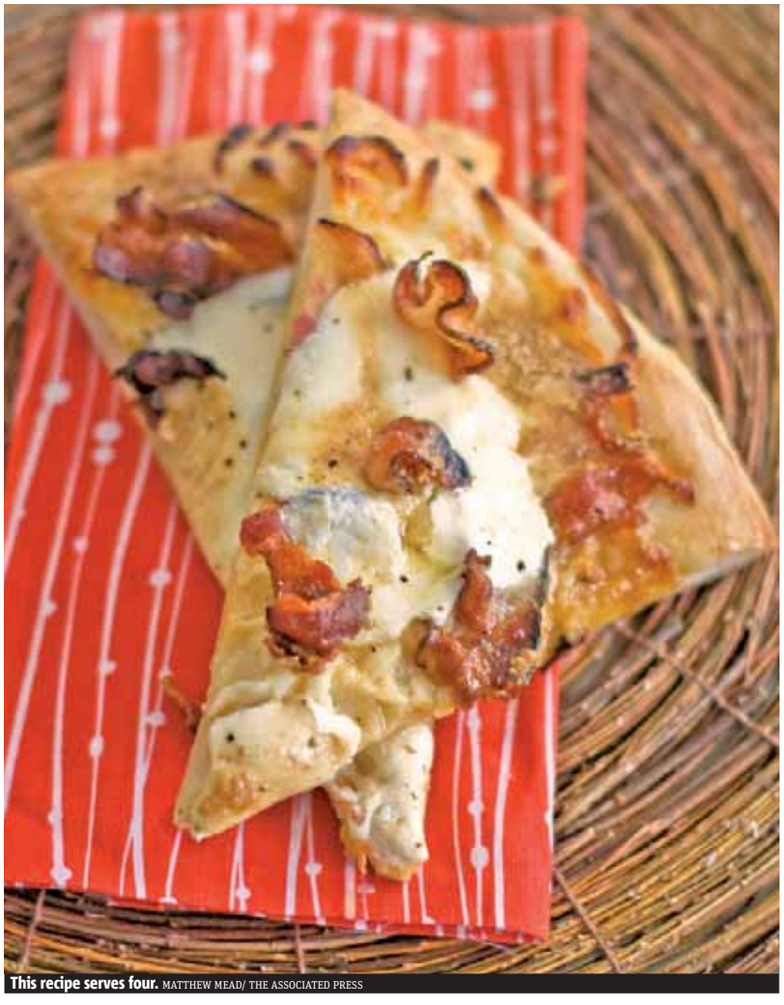
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Maple Bacon Butter Pizza: Foodie touchdown

Grey Cup snacks. This delicious pizza has the perfect Canadian touch for the big game



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Predictably, the Internet abounds with recipes for pizza made with maple-cured bacon. But to truly take it to the next level — and make it uniquely Canadian — maple syrup is involved, as is an ample helping of butter to keep things interesting.

The result is this Maple Bacon Butter Pizza, which is refreshingly simple. A basic crust topped first with mozzarella, then cooked bacon, then more mozzarella and finally dollops of maple compound butter (made by blending softened butter with granulated maple sugar) is all it takes.

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp butter, softened
- 3 tbsp granulated maple sugar
- 20-oz ball prepared pizza dough, room temperature
- 1 cup grated mozzarella cheese
- 12 oz bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 8-oz ball fresh mozzarella, sliced

1. Heat the oven to 500 F. Lightly coat a baking sheet with cooking spray.

2. In a small bowl, mix together the butter and maple sugar until well blended. Set aside.

3. On a lightly floured surface, carefully roll out the pizza dough to about a 14-inch circle. You may need to use your hands to stretch the dough if rolling alone doesn't work. Transfer the dough to the prepared baking sheet.

4. Sprinkle grated mozzarella cheese evenly over the dough. Top the mozzarella with the bacon, distributing it evenly over the pizza. Arrange the slices of fresh mozzarella over the bacon. Using 2 spoons, scoop and dollop the maple sugar butter evenly over the pizza. The dollops do not need to be spread; they will melt in the oven.

5. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until the crust is puffed and browned and the cheese at the centre of the pizza is lightly browned. Let the pizza rest for 5 minutes before slicing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liquid Assets

A hint of Canadiana



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
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Time sure flies when you're sniffing, sipping and spitting (well, mostly) to please readers. I should know. This is my 200th Liquid Assets column for Metro.

I'm not the only one acknowledging a major milestone this weekend. On Sunday, The Grey Cup is raising a glass in celebration of a century of guys tossing a football back and forth.

I admit I don't know much about the game. What I do know is whisky, and the anniversary-inspired Gibson's Finest 100th Grey Cup Limited Edition ($29.95 to $33.29) will put an all-Canadian flavour profile (along with a touch of maple goodness) into your glass.

After a few failed attempts to infuse established whiskies from its portfolio with the sweet stuff, Gibson's official Malt Master created a special blend that includes maple syrup as part of the recipe.

The finished spirit is relaxed and soothing with a soft, smoky aroma that releases hints of tropical fruits and caramel. In the mouth, a rich expression of malt is massaged by an undercurrent of vanilla and just a whisper of maple sugar that makes it an ideal whisky to sip on while watching the big game. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

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Bavarian Cheese Spread.
Serve with fresh veggies, pretzel sticks or crackers



1. In food processor fitted with blade attachment, combine cream cheese, semi-soft cheese, cheddar cheese, shallots, paprika, caraway seeds and pepper; blend and pulse for 2 to 3 minutes or until completely smooth, scraping down bowl occasionally.

2. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour (and up to 2 days) for flavours to blend. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO

Ingredients

- Half 250 g container light deli-style cream cheese (15 per cent M.F.), room temperature
- 125 g (4 oz) semi-soft or creamy cheese such as Oka-style "washed-rind" or brie-type style, rinds removed (about 250 ml/1 cup), room temperature
- 125 g (4 oz) old white cheddar, grated (about 250 ml/1 cup), room temperature
- 2 shallots or 1 small onion, finely diced
- 5 ml (1 tsp) hot or sweet smoked paprika
- 5 ml (1 tsp) caraway seeds
- Pepper, to taste

All the tastiness of candy apples in a smaller package



This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCAITED PRESS

1. Heat the oven to 250 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. Using a mandoline, food processor or very sharp knife, cut the apple into very thin slices, about 1/8 inch thick. There are several ways to do this. If you have an apple corer, you can simply cut out the core, then lay the apple on its side and slice starting at one side and working your way to the other. If you don't have a corer, stand the apple upright, then begin on one side and cut slices until you reach the core. Rotate the apple and repeat until all 4 sides have been sliced.

Ingredients

- 1 large apple
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- Half of a 14-oz package caramel candies, unwrapped
- 1 tbsp water
- 1/2 cup white chocolate bits
- 1 tsp shortening
- 1/2 cup dark chocolate candy melts

3. Arrange the apple slices on the prepared baking sheet, being careful not to overlap. Sprinkle the apples with cinnamon, then bake for 45 minutes, or until dried and slightly crisp. Slide the parchment and apples off the baking sheet and onto a cooling rack. Let cool completely.

4. Once the apples have cooled, in a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine the caramels and water. Heat, stirring constantly, until melted and smooth. Dunk a fork into the caramel, then use it to drizzle the caramel over the apple chips. Set aside to let the caramel set.

5. When caramel has set, place white chocolate bits and shortening in microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high in 15-second bursts, stirring between, until melted and smooth. Using a clean fork, repeat the drizzling similar to the caramel. Set aside to let the white chocolate set.

6. Once the white chocolate has set, melt the dark chocolate candy melts in a clean bowl using the same method as the white chocolate. Once melted, dunk a clean fork in the melted chocolate and drizzle over the apple chips. Let cool until the chocolate is set. Store in an airtight container for up to a week.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.



MIX OF SIX
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca



Church on Sunday: Royal Wood

Royal Wood is thrilled to announce his Halifax stop for his aptly-named Canadian tour, The Glory Tour. Spreading the gospel at St. Matthew's Church Sunday night, he will be accompanied by a five-piece band for the first full tour in celebration of his new album We Were Born To Glory, which debuted in the top 25 albums in Canada at No. 23. Visit sonicconcerts.com.



Migrate to Art: Khyberian Knights

Upstream's Khyberian Knights take command of the Khyber's third floor Turret Room to lead us East of Istanbul on a magic carpet ride of exotic sounds and video featuring MC Christian Murray, Keelin Jack, Arthur Bull/guitar, and many more. For $10 at the door this Friday at 9 p.m. come channel your inner Turkish jam band!



Ne pas miss out: Francofestival

The largest French-speaking cultural event in Halifax, which includes the French book fair le Salon du livre, ends Saturday. The Francofestival includes concerts, two theatre productions, and of course the book fair with more than 5,000 French books. This event has activities for the francophone and French immersion schools as well as for the community. Visit ccgh.ca.



On Stage: Elf The Musical

You've seen the movie, so I don't need to remind you that Elf is one of the most beloved Christmas films of the past decade. Now the heartwarming tale of a would-be elf, forced out of Santa's workshop, is coming to the stage. Elf: The Musical, makes its Canadian premier at Neptune. Book now, don't be a cotton-headed ninny-muggins!



It's in the Heart: GROOVE

Come out for the original Hip Hop Dance Party, lovingly hosted by Concrete Roots at the Bus Stop Theatre Friday night at 8 p.m. Special Guests include Montreal's Lady C and Calgary's Tony Tran, who will be rockin' the dance floor. For $5, everyone is welcome to bond over the love of Hip Hop culture and help that community grow.



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Rainmen's new coach looks to bring winning attitude

It starts with the defence. Rob Spon says it's 'two wins or nothing' this weekend as the Rainmen try to climb back to .500



PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

If intensity is what you want from the Halifax Rainmen, then Rob Spon is your man.

Spon has been bringing energy to the team's practices all week after taking over the head coach reins officially on Tuesday.

In fact, things got so heated Thursday morning at practice he says there was some pushing and shoving between teammates.

"You have to have that. There better be pushing and shoving. It has to be physical," Spon said. "We need it. We love it."

What Halifax needs more of is wins. Spon was brought in to turn around a team off to a disappointing 2-4 start. Spon, previously head coach of the Quebec Kebs and Manchester Mill Rats, was hired last week to replace Cliff Levingston, who was fired on Nov. 13 after a 2-3 start to the National Basketball League of Canada season.

Spon arrived in town Tuesday and wasn't on the sidelines for the team's last game, a 109-87 thumping at the hands of the Moncton Miracles on Nov. 18.

"I'm just getting the guys to believe in themselves — the winning attitude," he said on how he's turning things around.

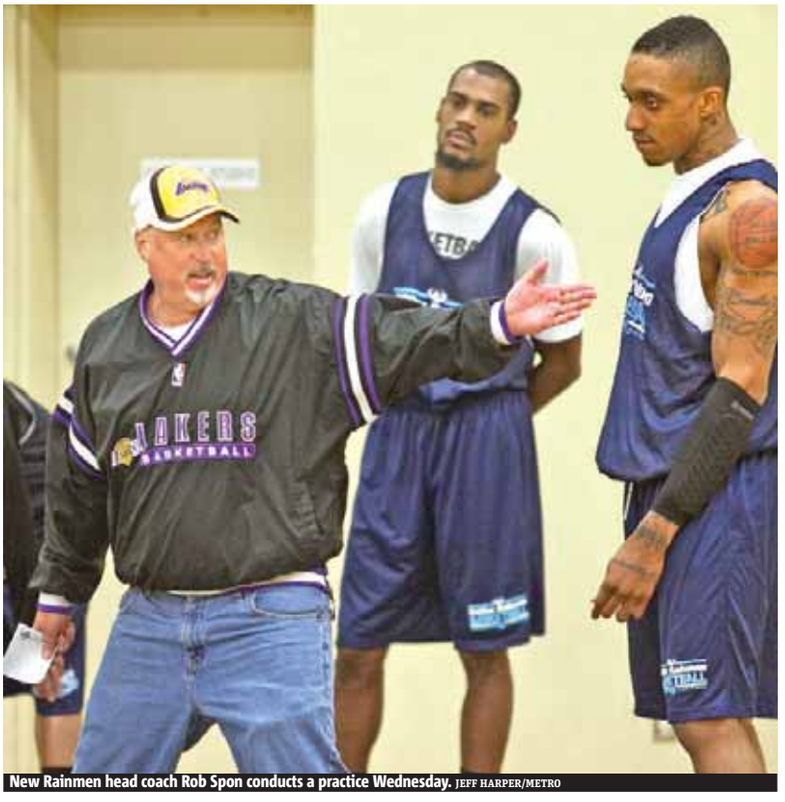
"When you're not winning games, it begins with defence. We have to be more physical on defence … we have to own the paint."

Halifax will try to get back to the .500 mark this weekend when it hosts the Windsor Express on Saturday at 7 p.m. and the Summerside Storm Sunday at 2 p.m.

Quoted

"I'm going to hold people accountable. I'm more intense."

Halifax Rainmen coach Ron Spon



New Rainmen head coach Rob Spon conducts a practice Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Mooseheads stay hot on the power play



Martin Frk
CONTRIBUTED



PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

Word to the wise for teams playing the Halifax Mooseheads right now — stay out of the penalty box.

The Mooseheads power play is red-hot, working at a 50 per cent clip over the past five games (15 of 30). In fact, Halifax is now leading the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League in power-play efficiency (30.9 per cent), moving ahead of the Quebec Remparts (30.7 per cent).

"We always play our best when we're moving a lot, when we skate a lot, and teams have to slow us down because we are such a fast team. So once they take penalties we have two great power-play units," said Mooseheads defenceman Konrad Abeltshauser.

"So probably the best thing for the other team is to stay out of the box, I'd say."

Abeltshauser is the lone defenceman on the team's No. 1 unit, sharing the ice with forwards Nathan MacKinnon, Jonathan Drouin, Stefan Fournier and Martin Frk.

Abeltshauser hasn't scored on the power play but has done a good job setting up MacKinnon, Drouin, Fournier and Frk, who have combined for 25 goals.

"Even if the pass doesn't get right on the tape, they are still able to catch it and handle it quite well. They have great vision so they find you when you're open," said Abeltshauser, who has a team-best 26 assists. "It's so much fun to share the ice with those guys."

Frk shares the point position with Abeltshauser and has been getting plenty of chances at letting go his hard shot, including Wednesday when he scored in a 6-2 win over the Baie-Comeau Drakkar.

"Everybody says I got a hard shot so I'm trying to use it on the power play," said Frk.

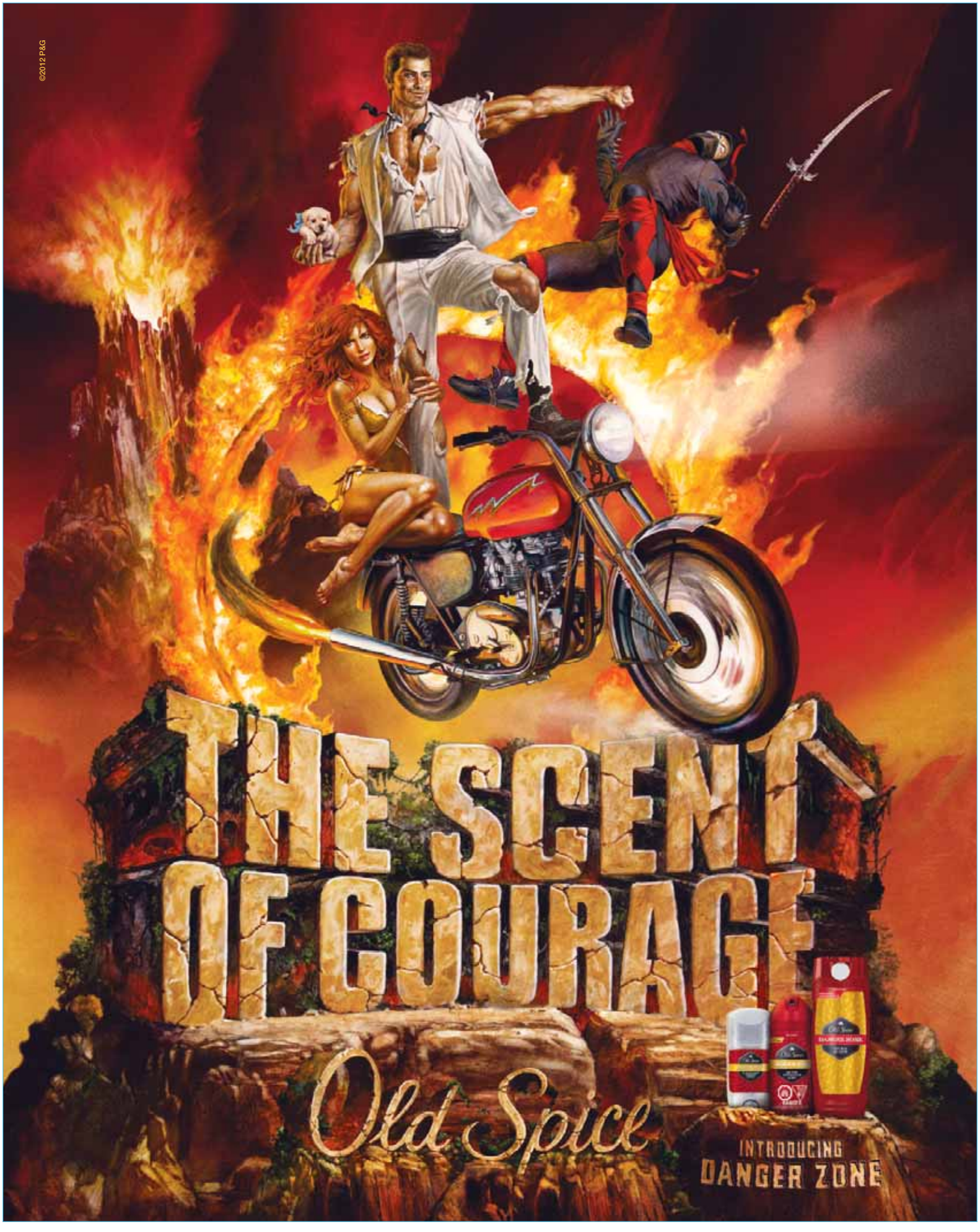
November games

Halifax is back in action Friday against the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles at the Metro Centre at 7 p.m. They play the Moncton Miracles on Sunday and then Chicoutimi on Nov. 30.

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AS USUAL, IT'S A TALE OF TWO QUARTERBACKS



CFL EXTRA POINTS
Dan Toth
halifax@metronews.ca

Calgary at Toronto, Sunday, 7:30 p.m. (TSN)

It should be no surprise that in a quarterback-driven league, the biggest story heading into the 100th Grey Cup game on Sunday is the remarkable twists of fate experienced by the two starting passers.

Calgary's Kevin Glenn and Toronto's Ricky Ray couldn't have imagined their current status a year ago. Last November, Glenn, entrenched as the starter in Hamilton, had just led his Ticats to a triumph over Montreal and into the East final. Ray, seemingly untouchable as a legend in Edmonton, was expected to play out his career as an Eskimo.

Fast-forward to today and Glenn has emerged as the Stampeders' surprising playoff leader and hero heading into the Grey Cup Sunday at Rogers Centre in Toronto. Ray, swapped by then-Esks GM Eric Tillman for little more than a handful of magic beans, is suddenly tasked with leading the Argos in their first "home" Grey Cup in 20 years.

The trade was so one-sided, some CFL followers still believe the Ray transaction was orchestrated by the league to help the Argos compete for the centennial Grey Cup at home. Conspiracy theorists also suggest the trade was made to appease Argos owner David Braley, who also holds the purse strings in Vancouver and may have saved both teams (and the league) from extinction.

Ray is also expected to stoke the dying embers of CFL enthusiasm in Toronto, where the fan base would apparently prefer to attend a Buffalo Bills pre-season game than cheer on the Argos, North America's oldest football franchise.

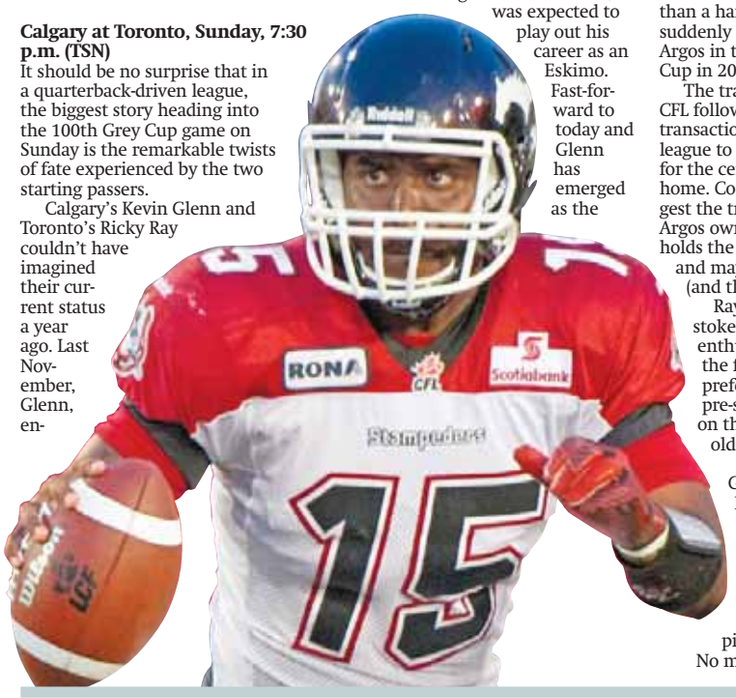
While Ray is a former Grey Cup champ as an Eskimo, Glenn's closest brush with the title occurred in the 2007 East final. Despite winning the game, Glenn suffered a broken arm and was sidelined for the championship game.

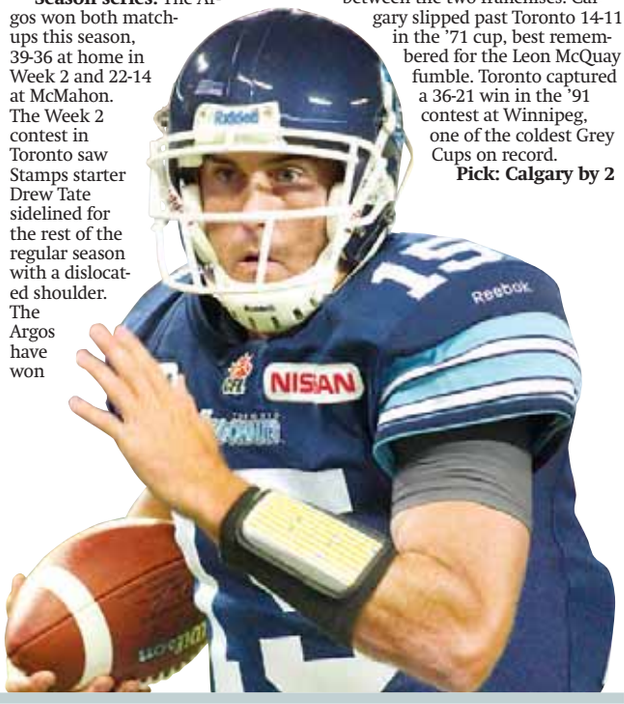
No matter who wins Sunday, the 2012 Grey Cup champs will be led by a quarterback whose story will dominate the headlines Monday morning.

Season series: The Argos won both matchups this season, 39-36 at home in Week 2 and 22-14 at McMahon. The Week 2 contest in Toronto saw Stamps starter Drew Tate sidelined for the rest of the regular season with a dislocated shoulder. The Argos have won five consecutive games against the Stamps dating back to 2010.

Grey Cup history: This will mark the third Grey Cup meeting between the two franchises. Calgary slipped past Toronto 14-11 in the '71 cup, best remembered for the Leon McQuay fumble. Toronto captured a 36-21 win in the '91 contest at Winnipeg, one of the coldest Grey Cups on record.

Pick: Calgary by 2





Chad Owens named CFL's most outstanding player

The Flyin' Hawaiian is the CFL's outstanding player.

Versatile Chad Owens of the Toronto Argonauts claimed the honour Thursday night at the league's awards banquet.

The 30-year-old native of Hawaii got the nod ahead of Calgary Stampeders running back Jon Cornish in voting conducted by the Football Reporters of Canada as well as the eight CFL head coaches.

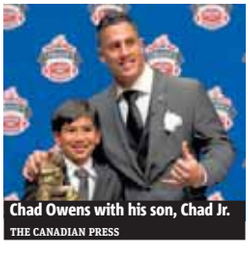
The 2012 season has been a magical one for both Owens and the Argos.

Owens led the CFL in receiving (94 catches for 1,328 yards and six TDs) and return yards (2,510) and accumulated a league-record 3,863 all-purpose yards. Owens, affectionately dubbed the Flyin' Hawaiian, is a big reason why Toronto is making its first Grey Cup appearance since '04. Owens and the Argos are indeed in the 100th Grey Cup, where they will face Cornish and the Stampeders on Sunday at Rogers Centre.

But the six-foot, 217-pound Cornish had a record-setting season of his own.

Cornish, who was attempting to become the first Canadian in 34 years to be named the CFL's outstanding player, didn't leave empty-handed. The native of New Westminster, B.C., was named the CFL's top Canadian ahead of Montreal Alouettes linebacker Shea Emry, of Richmond, B.C. Emry, who had a career-best 87 tackles this season with seven sacks, was also a finalist in the top defensive player award, finishing behind Edmonton Eskimos linebacker J.C. Sherritt.

The other award winners were Hamilton receiver Chris Williams (top special-teams player); Lions offensive lineman Jovan Olafioye (outstanding lineman); and Winnipeg receiver Chris Matthews (top rookie). THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chad Owens with his son, Chad Jr.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Texans catch a break in late win over Lions

NFL. Detroit coach makes costly mistake after throwing a challenge, Houston takes advantage with game-winning field goal in overtime

Jim Schwartz threw a challenge flag when he didn't need to and the Houston Texans made him regret it.

Shayne Graham's 32-yard field goal with 2:21 left in overtime lifted Houston to a 34-31 win over the Detroit Lions on Thursday after their coach broke an NFL rule by attempting to challenge a scoring play.

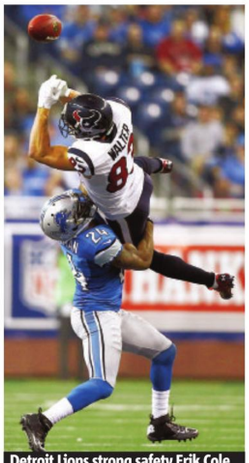
"Obviously that's a big break in the game for us," Houston coach Gary Kubiak said. "But I think you make your breaks when you work your tail off."

Detroit kicker Jason Hanson had a chance to get Schwartz off the hook, but his 47-yard field-goal attempt on the fifth possession of the extra period hit the right upright. Lions defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch did, too, on the previous possession when he couldn't intercept a pass Matt Schaub threw directly at him deep in Houston territory.

Detroit might've won in regulation if its coach hadn't made a costly mistake.

Schwartz threw a challenge flag when Houston's Justin Forsett scored on an 81-yard touchdown run in the third quarter after two Lions tackled him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Detroit Lions strong safety Erik Cole man breaks up a pass for Texans wide receiver Kevin Walter during the third quarter at Ford Field.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Redskins

Washington beat Dallas 38-31 in their Thanksgiving game.

- **RG3.** Robert Griffin III threw for 311 yards and four touchdowns.
- **London Fletcher** extended his consecutive games streak to 235 and made his 190th straight start.

Vanier Cup. Two top teams ready to rumble in T.O.

For many, it was the greatest Canadian college football game ever played. For Glen Constantin and his Laval Rouge et Or, it was inspirational fuel.

The 47th Vanier Cup in Vancouver, which was played a year ago Sunday, saw the McMaster Marauders defeat Laval 41-38 in double overtime.

The 48th edition goes Friday (8:30 p.m., TSN) in Toronto, with the undefeated and No. 1 Marauders facing No. 2 Laval. The crowd is expected to top the record of 32,847 at the 1989 Vanier Cup.

Both teams come in on top of their game. In the national semifinals last weekend, the Rouge et Or clobbered No. 9 Acadia Axemen 42-7 in Quebec City, their CIS-record 58th straight victory at home. This is Laval's fourth appearance in the Vanier Cup in five years, having won in 2010 and 2008.

The Marauders routed the No. 3 Calgary Dinos 45-6, extending their winning streak to a CIS-record 21 straight games. Their last loss was in Week 2 last season, a home-opening 48-21 thumping by the Western Ontario Mustangs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Puerto Rico

Boxer 'brain dead' after shooting

Famed Puerto Rican boxer Hector (Macho) Camacho is clinically brain dead, doctors said Thursday.

The 50-year-old Camacho was shot as he and a friend sat in a Ford Mustang parked outside a bar Tuesday night. Police said investigators found nine small bags of cocaine in the friend's pocket, and a 10th bag inside the car. Camacho's friend, identified as 49-year-old Adrian Mojica Moreno, was killed in the attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Thomsen takes unusual route to World Cups

Skiing. B.C. native's persistence has him racing in top tier

Ben Thomsen nearly fell through the cracks a few times during his ski career.

On the verge of dropping out of the sport — and sometimes encouraged to do so by those around him — Thomsen is on the Canadian team because of his own stubbornness and an assist from a teammate.

"There was a couple of times I thought, 'It's absolutely not possible,'" the 25-year-old said Thursday at Lake Louise, Alta. "It was not happening. I could barely pay rent."

Two years ago, Thomsen was living in a garage converted into an apartment in the industrial area of his hometown of Invermere, B.C.

To make the national team, he needed to attend fall training camps and pay his own way to World Cup races during the 2010-11 season to earn the necessary points. Canadian team skier Manny Osborne-Paradis worked out a deal with his own sponsors to funnel cash to Thomsen.

Season-opener

Thomsen was 17th on Thursday in the second of three training runs for Saturday's season-opening World Cup downhill.

Thomsen was 16th in a World Cup downhill in Val Gardena, Italy, that season and posted top-20 results in both downhill and super-G at the 2011 world championships. Those results made him a funded member of the men's team in 2011-12. Thomsen finished in the top 10 four times, including a breakthrough World Cup silver on the 2014 Olympic course in Sochi, Russia.



Canada's Ben Thomsen races down the hill during a training run in Lake Louise, Alta., on Thursday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



MLB. New Jays pitcher open to extension

Josh Johnson would be open to signing a contract extension to stay in Toronto beyond the 2013 season, his agent says.

But the Blue Jays have not yet approached him about such a deal.

"It hasn't come up in any of our conversations," said Matt Sosnick, who represents the six-foot-seven right-hander, one of the five players the Jays acquired in a blockbuster trade with the Miami Marlins last week.

"(GM Alex Anthopoulos) hasn't volunteered it and I haven't asked him about it. It's probably something that if he wants to talk about it, we'll talk about it down the road."

While Jose Reyes and Mark Buehrle — the two other key pieces in the trade — are under team control through 2017 and 2015, respectively, Johnson is slated to become a free agent after next year.

Sosnick believes that if he has a strong 2013, Johnson could fetch one of the biggest free-agent contracts in history for a starting pitcher. But he's open to discussing a deal that could keep him in Toronto.

"If there is anyone in the game I'd be receptive to talking to about it, it's (Anthopoulos)."

Anthopoulos wouldn't confirm or deny Sosnick's comments because he never publicly discusses contractual negotiations with players.

Johnson, 28, has a career 3.15 ERA over parts of eight seasons, all with the Marlins. He's a two-time all-star who had the lowest ERA in the NL in 2010, but missed almost all of 2011 with shoulder inflammation. He also missed most of the 2007 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Josh Johnson THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

F1 racing

Vettel not willing to play it safe

Sebastian Vettel says he will not approach the season-ending Brazilian Grand Prix any differently from previous races, despite having a significant lead over Fernando Alonso in the Formula One drivers' championship.

Vettel says he doesn't plan to play it safe in Sao Paulo even though a fourth-place finish will be enough to secure the Red Bull driver his third-straight F1 title on Sunday. The 25-year-old German has a 13-point lead over the Ferrari driver.

Vettel said Thursday he knows his team is in "a good position," but the goal from the start will be "to attack."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vanier Cup

Marauders, Rouge et Or set to clash in rematch

The McMaster Marauders and Laval Rouge et Or have one tough act to follow.

Friday's 48th Vanier Cup is a rematch of last year's classic — a 41-38 double overtime win for McMaster, dubbed by many as one of the greatest games in Canadian university football history.

The Marauders and Rouge et Or will meet before a Toronto gathering expected to exceed a record 33,000 spectators.

The Marauders' win last season earned the school its first Vanier Cup, while the Rouge et Or (11-1) are gunning for a record-breaking seventh title in their eighth appearance.

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Houses For Sale

Houses For Sale

Houses For Sale

Houses For Sale

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Great Starter Home $119,900 MLS® 40366445
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41 Autumn Place, Dartmouth
3 Bedroom Semi-Detached in Great Area $169,500
26 Baha Court, Bedford
3 Bdrm Home in Popular Bedford Subdivision $285,900
960 Beaverbank Road, Beaverbank
4 bdrm 4 bath carpet free home $309,900 MLS® 41124470
617 Brookside Drive, Brookside
$2500 Allowance for Front Windows $197,000 MLS® 00491548
186 Broom Road, Dartmouth
3 Bdrm 2 Storey Home $276,900
223 Caledonia Road, Dartmouth
3+1 Bdrm Semi in Montebello $192,900 MLS® 40763724
39 & 39A Chadwick Street, Dartmouth
3 Bdrm Bungalow with 1 Bdrm Apartment $209,900
7 Chinook Court, Dartmouth
Semi-Detached Home in Great Area $222,000 MLS® 40674459
103 Clayton Park Drive, Halifax
4 Bdrm Home $264,900

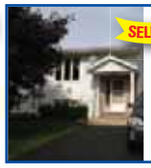
25 Dakin Drive, Halifax
3 Bdrm Home with 2 bdrm apt. $359,900
23 Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth
3 Bdrm Cape Cod Home is Ready to Move In $299,900 MLS® 40398513
670 East Uniacke Rd, Mount Uniacke
3 Bdrm Home in Mt Uniacke $229,900 MLS® 45147063
80 Fir Tree Lane, Timberlea
3 Bdrm Home in Timberlea $325,900 MLS® 41116328
24 Hammonds Plains Road, Unit 224, Bedford
2 Bdrm Condo Near Everything $149,900 MLS® 40487050
58 Harbour Ridge Drive, East Petpeswick
2 Bdrm home near Hrbr. Ridge Golf Course $284,900 MLS® 41032301
5712 Inglis Street, Halifax
6 Bdrm Home $859,900
196 James Street, Halifax
3 Bdrm Home in Desirable Timberlea $232,900 MLS® 40749715
38 Karen Cres, Porters Lake
3+1 Bdrm Split Entry $185,900 MLS® 00498220
32 Katrina Cres., Halifax
3 Bdrm Home in Governor's Lake $229,000
432 Lakecrest Drive, Middle Sackville
Maintained 3 Bdrm Carpet Free Split Entry $289,500 MLS® 41094236

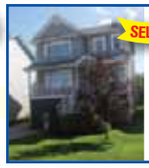
10 Laurelcrest Drive, Eastern Passage
3 Bdrm Semi $172,900
33 Leacock Court, Cole Harbour
3 Bdrm Townhouse $129,900
8 Loganberry Lane, West Chezzetcook
3 Bdrm Century Home with Many Upgrades $189,900
153 Lundy Drive, Dartmouth
4 Bedroom Executive Split in Great Area $374,900 MLS® 41222506
87 Melody Drive, Halifax
Updated 2 Bdrm Home Near MSVU $214,900 MLS® 00315812
891 Mineville Road, Mineville
Carpet Free with A/C & Heat Pump $244,900
50 Mountain Avenue, Dartmouth
2 Bdrm Bungalow with 1Bdrm Bsmt. Apt. $183,500 MLS® 00190231
80 Nadia Drive, Dartmouth
End Unit-3 Bdrm Townhouse $235,000
1 Northwood Road, Hammonds Plains
5 Bdrm Home on Large Level Lot $224,900
45 Pinehill Drive, Lower Sackville
4 Bdrm with 1 Bdrm In Law Suite $243,900 MLS® 00350371
24 Poplar Drive, Lantz
Home Sweet Home! 4 bdrm bungalow $259,900 MLS® 45261104

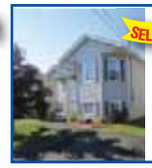
50 Prestwick Close, Halifax
3 Bdrm 4 Bath Townhouse in Desirable Location $284,000 MLS® 41036468
93 Rosewood Lane, Eastern Passage
3 Bdrm Semi $164,900
52 Salzburg Place, Halifax
4 bdrm Split Entry mins to Bayers Lake $439,900 MLS® 41273194
71 Sirius Cres., Dartmouth
3 Bdrm Bungalow $228,900 MLS® 40156317
3105 St. Margarets Bay Rd., Timberlea
4 Bdrm with In-Law Suite Potential $364,900
20 Summit Heights Road, Dartmouth
5 Bdrm 1.5 Bath Bungalow $259,900 MLS® 00226704
Lot G Tanglewood Drive, East Uniacke
Vacant Lot with Panoramic Ocean Views $39,000 MLS® 45144789
9 Taylor Drive, Windsor Junction
Capilano Estates 4 Bdrm Family Home $384,900 MLS® 40704611
1073 Terence Bay Road, Terence Bay
3 Bdrm Home in the Heart of Terence Bay $149,900 MLS® 00383901
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SELLER SAVED $7,538.25
36 South Gate Drive #503, Bedford
SOLD Oct. 2012


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SELLER SAVED $6,414.12
30 Loppie Close, Beechville
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44 Jeep Crescent, Eastern Passage
SOLD Nov. 2012

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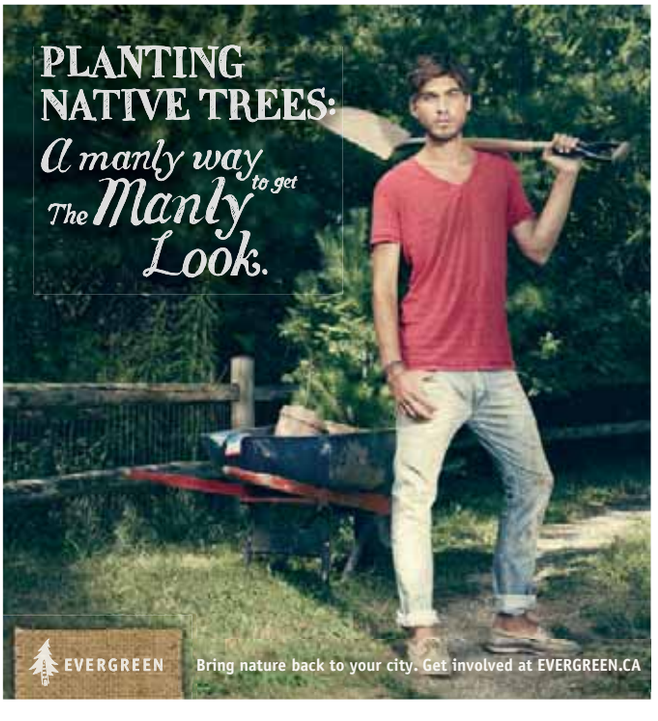
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Mars, your ruler, is at odds with Uranus, planet of surprises, so expect something surprising to happen. Whatever it may be, try not to overreact. You don't want to make a difficult situation even worse.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Let everyone know what you can do today. Blow your own trumpet. The fact of the matter is there are few who can match you for energy or excellence. You have a right to be pleased with yourself.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is a danger today that you will act too quickly and make a silly mistake, which could set back your plans by weeks or even months. Check all facts and figures for yourself. Don't be too trusting.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
A partnership problem will only be resolved if you resolve to work for a solution that all sides find fair. It does not matter if you are right and they are wrong, it matters only that everyone is happy.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Mars in the wellbeing area of your chart warns that you must know your limits. Don't push too hard or too fast today, or you may need to spend tomorrow and the weekend recovering from your exertions.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
At some point today, you will have to decide to push ahead with a project without the help of those you had previously counted on. But that's Ok. You don't need them. You're quite capable of getting it done yourself.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Disputes of one kind or another are likely today but that's fine. The air has to be cleared every once in a while and now is as good a time as any. As always, your sense of fair play will see you through.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't let anyone talk you out of what you are planning to do. They may say they are trying to save you from disaster but the truth is they don't want to see you succeed. It's called envy. Push on.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is no point in trying to convince a friend that your way of doing things is best, even though it clearly is, because they don't want to believe you. You will have to do it alone and you'll do better that way.

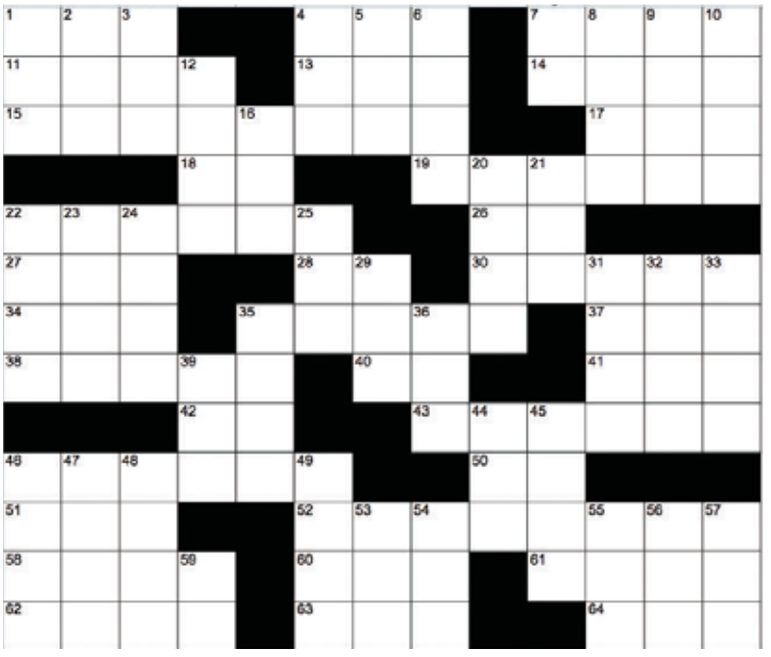
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You need to sit down and draw up a list of priorities. If you don't, you will waste a great deal of time and energy on matters that are of no real importance. Your time is precious. Don't waste it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Why are you convinced that others want to do you harm? Why do you think you have secret enemies? It's not true. It's just your mind playing tricks on you, so be positive and act as if everyone is your friend.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It's time to take action. For too long you have been sitting around planning what you are going to do some day. But that day may never come unless you get out and about and make things happen. Do it now. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

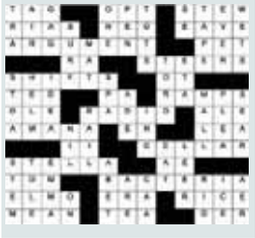
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Actor Aykroyd
4. Craze
7. Boxing term
11. Operatic solo
13. Inlet
14. Heavenly crown
15. Pocketbook
17. — the season
18. Gone with the Wind actress Olivia – Havilland
19. Candies
22. Steps
26. Plural suffix
27. Royal Ontario Museum (abbr.)
28. Deal – No Deal
30. Witches magic
34. Target
35. Thing of value
37. Foot digit
38. Braid
40. Poet Eliot
41. Baby
42. Talk show host of past (init.)
43. Halloween candies
46. Naps
50. Over achiever (abbr.)
51. Buddy
52. Bring this at mealtime
58. Used in paintings
60. Glee actress — Michele
61. Shoo
62. London bus
63. Sea eagle
64. Time frame

Down
1. Touch up lightly
2. Entourage role
3. Zero
4. To and —
5. Sickly
6. My Two —
7. Saint Helena internet country code
8. Hors D'Oeuvre served with crackers
9. Aglow
10. David Schwimmer in Friends
12. M*A*S*H actor
16. FBI agent
20. East Meets —
21. Extra Sensory Perception (abbr.)
22. Ensnare
23. Vex
24. Actress Thompson of "Nanny McPhee"
25. Distress signal
29. Letters between Q and U
31. Singer James
32. Robbers getaway
33. — Make a Deal
35. Apex
36. Superlative ending
39. Anger
44. Eggs
45. Food Network Canada's: Good —
46. See — Run
47. Den
48. Jazz great Fitzgerald
49. Store mark-down
53. Apiece (abbr.)
54. Kitchen utensil
55. Rapper: — T
56. Pavement goo
57. Airport information
59. Size before Med. and Lg.

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

			5				8	9
2	3				7			
9				3			1	7
	6			8		7		
1								5
		2		4			6	
6	5			7				8
			1				4	3
4	2				9			

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	4	6	7	5	1	9	8
7	8	1	9	4	2	5	6	3
9	6	5	1	8	3	4	2	7
4	5	3	8	6	9	2	7	1
8	9	6	2	1	7	3	4	5
1	2	7	3	5	4	6	8	9
3	4	2	5	9	8	7	1	6
5	1	9	7	2	6	8	3	4
6	7	8	4	3	1	9	5	2









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2013 ELANTRA

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

GET UP TO $2,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$15,444**♦

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



Limited model shown

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

2013 ELANTRA GT

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER $21K)

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8 L/100 KM



SE with Tech. shown

GET UP TO $1,850 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$18,794**♦

ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 ACCENT

2012 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR (UNDER $21K)

GET UP TO $425 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$14,369**♦

ACCENT 4-DOOR L 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



GLS model shown

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

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2013 SONATA

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM



Limited model shown

GET UP TO $3,500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$22,064**♦

SONATA GL AUTO. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 SANTA FE

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV (OVER $35K)

GET UP TO $1,150 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$27,109**♦

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



Limited model shown

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

5 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY™

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/ Accent 4-Door L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0%/0% for 24/24/24/48/24 months. Bi-weekly payment is $297/$362/$277/$213/$522. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$0/$0/$0/$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for $22,064 at 0% per annum equals $213 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of $22,064. Cash price is $22,064. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.8L/100KM)/2013 Accent GL 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM)/2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. †♦Friends & Family prices for models shown: 2013 Elantra Limited/Elantra GT SE Tech 6-Speed Auto/Accent 4-Door GLS 6-Speed Auto/Sonata Limited/Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD is $22,694/$26,039/$19,264/$27,339/$39,009. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦Friends & Family Selling Prices are calculated against the selling price less all factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments). Friends & Family Selling Prices include Delivery and Destination. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ‡Factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments) are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Total Factory to Dealer Price adjustments of $2,000/$1,850/$425/$3,500/$1,150 available on 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/ Accent 4-Door L 6-Speed Manual/ Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto include all Friends and Family Price Adjustments. Factory to dealer price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †♦‡Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.